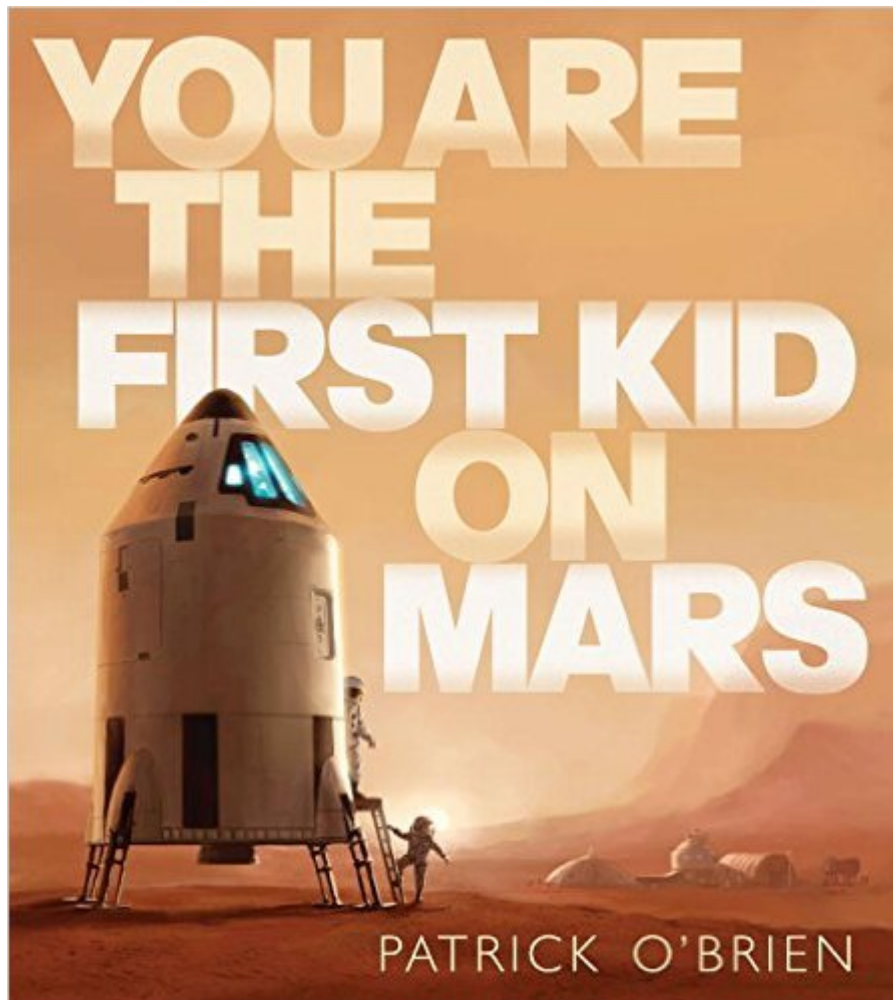


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# You Are The First Kid On Mars



## Synopsis

As we look back to the beginnings of the space race, 2009 is also the year for looking forward to humankind's next step toward the stars. In the spirit of books that once imagined colonies on the moon, Patrick O'Brien has created a unique look at your first trip to Mars. Using the most up-to-date designs and theories of what it will take to establish a base on Mars, you are off on an incredible journey, over 35 million miles to the red planet. Filled with details, and vividly brought to life, this is an adventure that you are never going to forget.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers (May 14, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399246347

ISBN-13: 978-0399246340

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.3 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #61,497 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Aeronautics & Space](#) #40 in [Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Planes & Aviation](#) #43 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Astronomy](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

This book takes a futuristic (but realistic) look at what it might be like for a child to travel to and live on a Martian colony. The story is told from the point of view of a boy of about 10, possibly based on the author's own son, with whom the reader is invited to identify. The boy, who is the eponymous "first kid on Mars", first travels to a space station via a space elevator, and then takes the long voyage to a Martian colony. The author goes into plenty of detail about what this journey, and life on the colony, might be like for a child. There is also an illustrated appendix of a couple of pages including some facts about the planet Mars. My main complaint with this book is that it contains a couple of glaring scientific errors. There are two places in the book where the author repeats the widely believed but false claim that Mars is the next closest planet to the Earth. (The correct answer

is Venus, which comes as close as 26 million miles to the Earth, compared to Mars's 35 million miles.) The book also claims that the reason that one would float in a space station is that "there is no gravity in space", which is not true. The correct explanation is that the space station is in orbit around the earth, which is possible precisely because there is gravity in space. Despite these errors, I found that a very positive feature of the book was the beautifully painted illustrations. One I particularly liked was the illustration of the boy's quarters on the ship: he has a model of the rocket from the Tintin adventures "Destination Moon" and "Explorers on the Moon", which may have partially inspired this book.

This instantly became a favorite book for my son. I love the writing, and the photos. My son is a very intelligent and gifted three year old who loves masculine things and not too much story, although the writing in this book is presented in a special way that appeals to him, as well as my 11 year-old daughter and I. I am fascinated by the information found on these pages (like the fact that Mars has the largest mountain in our galaxy that is three times taller than Mt. Everest and that if a person were to stand at the top of it, they would practically be in outer space). It's a pretty mesmerizing experience, reading this book and going through the process of how to get to Mars (all of the different rockets and vehicles and machines used). You can't go wrong with this one! A fantasy-educational experience. If your child isn't quite ready for you to read the entire pages, then just read the first couple of lines on each page until they ask for more. This is what I did with my three year old and now he begs me to "read it!"

**YOU ARE THE FIRST KID ON MARS** PATRICK O'BRIEN Children's Sci-Fi Futuristic Putnam Rating: 4.5 Enchantments **YOU ARE THE FIRST KID ON MARS** is a wonderfully detailed and imaginative look at what life would be like if you were literally the first kid on Mars. Filled with great digital illustrations that make the story come to life, this a perfect read for boys and anyone is interested in space and what life exploring another planet might be like. One of the most unusual children's books I've read, **YOU ARE THE FIRST KID ON MARS** is also one I really enjoyed reading. Filled with fun facts about Mars, like how long the actual journey to the red planet takes and what life might be like on the space station for the months long trek there. **YOU ARE THE FIRST KID ON MARS** will no doubt even grab the most reluctant reader's attention with its great imagery. Patrick O'Brien has written and illustrated non-fiction books for children as well as fun adventures such as *Captain Raptor* and *the Moon Mystery*. His previous factual books have been historic and prehistoric subjects--this is his first look into the future. O'Brien lives in Baltimore, Maryland with his wife and

son. Visit him online at [...] Lisa Enchanting Reviews November 2009

First saw this at the MD Science Museum, for a space happy daughter this book was great. I know others had quibbles with some of the finer details but with a 4 year old, the lack of nuance was fine. It would be like me complaining that Mousetronaut isn't realistic either). The art is great and it covers lots of theoretical possibilities for how we might make Mars work. My daughter's one request was that she would like a little girl astronaut to go to Titan next (or Saturn, she also likes Saturn).

Sometimes when you look up into the star-studded sky at night you might see a little red dot. What you probably are gazing at is the planet Mars. If you're an adventurous kid you'd probably love to be the first one to step foot on "the red planet," but what would it be like? It's a cold place that is about "80 degrees below zero Fahrenheit," dust devils swarm around its surface, the air is thin . . . still interested? Of course you are! You'll need to get your space suit on and head over to the space elevator. The elevator car is going to take you all the way up to the space station where you begin your journey. You're going to open a hatch and let yourself float into the station. The rocket you'll be boarding to head to Mars is called a "Nuclear Thermal Rocket." Once on board you'll be whirring through space at an amazing "75,000 miles per hour" toward your destination. Even at that speed you'll be traveling for four months. Once you arrive you'll have to dock with another space station that "stays in orbit above Mars." You'll be taking the Mars Lander down to the surface of the planet, but it will be a hair-raising ride because you'll "feel the ship shaking and jerking, and you [will] see flames shooting past the window." Do you really want to be the first kid on Mars? This is an amazing, futuristic peek at what it might be like to actually head to Mars. The text incorporates many facts about Mars as we know them today. I liked the way the author melded fact with fantasy making this book seem totally plausible. If you remember the exploits of Tom Swift and his space exploration, just think "new" and you'll get the picture except this is much better. The phenomenal illustrations are digital and are stunningly realistic. If you've been snapping up many of the Apollo books coming out lately, you just might want to add this gem to your collection!

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The MARS Series, Books 1-5 [Unabridged CD] by Edgar Rice Burroughs (A PRINCESS OF MARS, THE GODS OF MARS, THE WARLORD OF MARS, THUVIA, MAID OF MARS, THE CHESSMEN OF MARS) The Warlord of Mars by Edgar Rice Burroughs, (Mars Series, Book 3) from Books In Motion.com (John Carter of Mars) You Are the First Kid on Mars The Gods Of Mars by Edgar Rice Burroughs (Mars Series, Book 2) from Books In Motion.com The Warlord of Mars (John Carter of

Mars) Thuvia, Maid of Mars by Edgar Rice Burroughs (Mars Series, Book 4) from Books In Motion.com A Princess of Mars (John Carter of Mars) The Chessmen of Mars by Edgar Rice Burroughs(Mars Series, Book 5) from Books In Motion.com Warlord of Mars: Dejah Thoris Vol. 1: Colossus of Mars My Very First Library: My Very First Book of Colors, My Very First Book of Shapes, My Very First Book of Numbers, My Very First Books of Words The Wimpy Kid School Planner (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) Kid Quotes 2013 Wall Calendar- Funny Kid Quotes to Keep Mom Smiling & Organized! Hotshots Travel Games Kid Kit (Usborne Kid Kits) Kid Artists: True Tales of Childhood from Creative Legends (Kid Legends) The Wimpy Kid Movie Diary: How Greg Heffley Went Hollywood, Revised and Expanded Edition (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) The Wimpy Kid Movie Diary (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) Kid Athletes: True Tales of Childhood from Sports Legends (Kid Legends) Kid Presidents: True Tales of Childhood from America's Presidents (Kid Legends) Wimpy Kid Do-It-Yourself Book (Revised and Expanded Edition) (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) I Use the Potty: Big Kid Power (I'm a Big Kid Now)

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