NASA is going to the Moon to learn how to eventually live on Mars! Through the Artemis missions, NASA will land the first woman and first person of color on the Moon. Along with their fellow astronauts, they will explore the Moon’s South Pole and learn to live and work around the Moon.

Throughout their journey, NASA missions and astronauts must communicate with mission control on Earth. NASA's Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) program operates the Deep Space Network and Near Space Network to ensure explorers can always call home. These networks also enable missions to send back important science information - like pictures and videos! NASA currently uses radio waves to communicate information to and from spacecraft, but the agency is testing the use of invisible laser light to send more data at once! NASA is also creating LunaNet, an “internet” on the Moon that will allow explorers and missions to easily communicate with each other and Earth. This will be similar to what humans experience on Earth. To learn more, check out the resources below.

Illustrate the adventures of NASA's Artemis astronauts by creating your own comic.

DEVELOP THE STORY
On the next page, you’ll find script options. Choose which text to use and which text to remove, consider adding your own!

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX
Consider other creative ways to show the story. Not every image must be literal.

CREATE FIRST; EDIT LATER
Do a rough draft before making your final copy.

SKETCH SIMPLY
Use scratch paper to draw your comic. Use shapes, lines, colors, and symbols to represent your ideas.

EXPERIMENT & EXPLORE
Don’t be afraid to start over with a fresh page if you don’t like the way it’s shaping up!

RELAX. HAVE FUN!
Don’t worry about making the perfect comic. Have fun with your ideas and drawings.

RESOURCES
NASA Networks
go.nasa.gov/3py6BER
LunaNet
go.nasa.gov/3qvFpG9
Deep Space Communications Educator Guide
go.nasa.gov/3J68wal

SCaN Educational Resources
go.nasa.gov/3EAEzwL
First Woman Graphic Novel
go.nasa.gov/3FCpfRy

HOW WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO ARTEMIS?
Consider adding yourself or your friends to the story as mission controllers, astronaut trainers, radio operators, astronauts, or other contributors.

Submit scans of your comic to GSFC-SCaN-engagement@mail.nasa.gov and you could be featured on NASA’s social media!

Many thanks to Evan Keeling from the Smithsonian Institution’s Exhibit Design team for sharing his original implementation of this activity with us.
SCRIPT OPTIONS

Choose scripts for your comic from the sequential options below, or make up your own!

- Astronauts train for years to prepare for their journey into space.
- NASA’s Artemis missions will see the first woman and first person of color on the Moon!
- Astronauts launch on the Space Launch System, the most powerful rocket ever built.
- Astronauts live in the Orion spacecraft on the way to the Moon.
- During their journey, astronauts talk to mission control through radio waves and laser light systems!
- Ground antennas and in-space relays connect with missions to gather important information like health, safety, and science data.
- Using navigation, later missions will dock with NASA’s Gateway, an orbiting laboratory for astronauts to live and work.

Then a human landing system takes astronauts down to the Moon’s surface.
On the Moon, astronauts conduct experiments and collect data and samples.
LunaNet, “internet” on the Moon, allows astronauts to stay connected to Earth as they explore.
The human landing system takes astronauts back to Gateway and they board Orion to prepare for take-off to Earth.
The Orion spacecraft journeys back to Earth, blasting through the atmosphere.
The capsule splashes down in the Pacific Ocean and the astronauts return home.
NASA sends astronauts to the Moon to practice before going to Mars!

REFERENCE IMAGES

If you want more reference images for visual pieces to include in your comic, check out https://images.nasa.gov/.
Here are some keywords to get your searches started: Artemis, Orion Spacecraft, Gateway, Antenna, and International Space Station.
ILLUSTRATE NASA’S JOURNEY TO THE MOON
SCaN Comic Activity

ARTIST FIRST NAME:

AGE:

LOCATION:

COMICS

MAKING THE CONNECTION
THE ARTEMIS GENERATION

Submit scans of your comic covers to GSFC-SCaN-engagement@mail.nasa.gov

www.nasa.gov

KEEPPING OUR EXPLORERS CONNECTED TO HOME

NP-2022-4-756-GSFC (3/6)