

# The Edison Examiner

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Edison Elementary Community Newspaper

## Science Corner with Treetop

By Jason Aulicino

Humans are more frequently launching rockets into space, but it is rare to launch anything with the aim of landing on the surface of Mars. A Martian surface landing is a difficult feat, is very expensive, and requires years of planning. Research is needed from dozens of scientists and engineers from all over the world. Luckily, there are many young, well-educated, scientists and engineers ready to work on such a project.

On November 26th, 2018 NASA successfully landed a probe named InSight on the surface of Mars after a seven-month journey from Earth. But, InSight wasn't alone in its journey. It was followed by two other "brief-case sized" satellites called Mars Cube One, or MarCo, with a separate mission of relaying information from InSight back to Earth, as a demonstration. The MarCo's were successful in that they have proven that "tiny" spacecrafts can survive deep space and perform tasks.

**What is InSight doing on Mars, anyway?** InSight was designed to observe and report its findings to scientists. Scientists want to get a better understanding of the habitability of Mars as a destination for future missions, and to learn more about the formation of the planet. InSight is a stationary probe, and not a movable rover like Sojourner 1997, Spirit/Opportunity 2012, or Curiosity 2012. Its mission may help provide new information about the Solar System's terrestrial planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars) by taking the "Vital Signs" of the planet.

InSight has two main *Science Goals*, each with several investigations. First, Scientists want to understand how the rocky planets formed and evolved. InSight will study the interior structure and processes on Mars by determining the size of the core, what it is made of, and whether it is a liquid or a solid. Further, InSight will provide information about the thickness and structure of the crust, the structure of the mantle and what it is made of, and the temperature of the interior and how much heat is still flowing through.

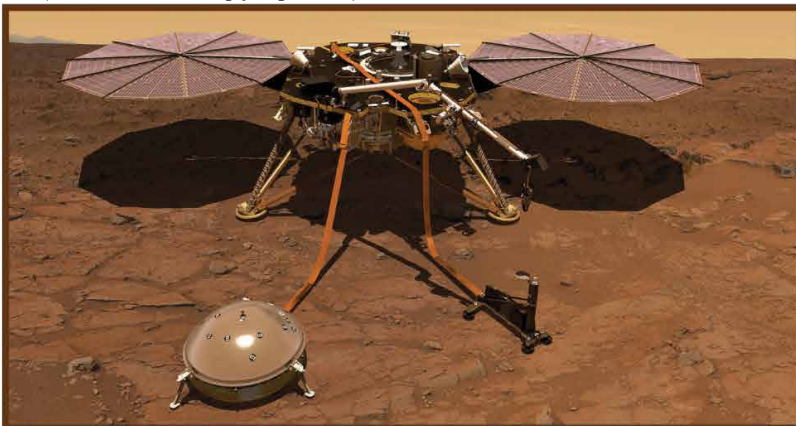
InSight's second *Science Goal* is to help figure out how tectonically active Mars is today and how often meteorites impact the planet. InSight will measure how powerful and frequent the internal seismic activity is on Mars, where that activity is occurring

in the structure of the planet, and how often meteorites impact the Martian surface.

**Not an Easy Task...** InSight traveled more than 300 million miles to reach Mars. Sending a satellite to Mars and sending a probe or rover down to the surface of Mars are two very different tasks. Only about 40% of the missions to Mars were ever successful and the United States is the only nation to successfully land on the surface of Mars, intact. The descent to Mars from its upper atmosphere is incredibly difficult because of the thin Martian atmosphere (1% of Earth). Without a thicker atmosphere the descent to Mars means there is little friction to slow down a spacecraft. It only took minutes for InSight and its Aeroshell to descend from the upper atmosphere at 12,000mph to where the parachute opened at 861 mph, to zero mph at the surface. The actual landing and descent sequence has several stages that happen very quickly and need precise measurements and science in to be successful.

The InSight mission is fascinating in there are many things this probe will tell us about Mars. NASA provides excellent information about this mission in pictures, videos, and animation, etc. You can visit the NASA webpage here: <https://mars.nasa.gov/insight/> to learn more about the experiments, design & building of the mission, the launch, and the scary descent to the Martian surface. It is not every day we land on Mars so, it is fun to learn as the discoveries are happening!

(below is an artist's rendering of InSight on Mars)



### IN THIS EDITION

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### Whats happening at Edison

**24 Dec- 4 January** - Winter Break

**7 January** - No School- Prof. Dev.

**8 January** - School Resumes

**11 January** - Treetop Classes Begin

**17 January** - Winter sing

**21 January** - No School- MLK Day

**28 January** - Project Fair

# Bob the Chicken: Part 1

By Abby K and Maya R

Bob was a chicken with a dream. He had always wanted to go to space and see the galaxy. His background on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook was a galaxy. He wore a shirt that said, 'My brain is galactic!' on it. At school, all the other chickens wanted to be meat when they grew up. That was the chicken dream. But Bob didn't like that at all. He didn't like that his friends' purpose in life was to get cooked to death and eaten. His friends liked him, but they also thought he was weird because he didn't want to be meat when he grew up and his life goal wasn't dying and being eaten. It's very rare to succeed in this goal, though. The humans only picked the fattest and the ones with the most meat, and unfortunately Bob was the fattest chicken around. All his friends told him he was perfect to be eaten when he was older. That's why he was so excited when an ad came on for space camp last Friday. He hoped that it wasn't just filled with nerds. Bob begged his parents and when they complained about the price, he said he'll pay two full dollars (that's all of his money). His parents thought that was cute, so they let him go.

At space camp, it was even worse than being stuck with nerds; he was with a bunch of chickens who didn't care. In his cabin, he said to everyone: "Guys, why are you here if you don't even care?! I bet you'd rather be cooked death!" "We would! In fact, w-" one chicken was going to reply, but then got interrupted by one of the space camp counselors who came in and said, "You are getting two new chickens in your cabin. They are twins and their names are Siri and Alexa." When the two chickens stepped inside the door, Bob felt like he was floating. "Dude you're blushing!" said one chicken named Fred. That only made Bob blush more. Siri and Alexa giggled. "Hey..." he said failing to be cool. "Hi." they said in unison. They each had beds already set up in the cabin. Siri's was blue, orange, and green and was a very pretty design. She had lots of blankets and looked very prepared. Alexa, on the other hand, did not look prepared at all. Though she over-packed, most of the stuff she had packed was squishies and slime. She looked in her mirror, (that was conveniently built into her pink phone case) and ran up to the second story, screaming, "I have crazy feathers! I have crazy feathers!". A few moments later she ran back down and screamed, "That's not where the bathroom is! That's not where the bathroom is!". She ran into the real bathroom and a few moments later, she walked out calmly with her feathers neatly brushed down. One single feather popped up on top of her head and she screamed. Siri rolled her eyes so far back that Bob thought that they might disappear in her head. "I'm going to bed." Siri said, disgruntled. "But it's only 3:36." Fred said. "I don't care!" she said from under the blankets. "Wow. They're complete opposites," said Fred. Then the counselor called every one to the meeting center.

"What?!" Yelled Bob into the mirror. It was two in the morning, and Bob was so worried because he was going to be staying in a Mars habitat for the next three days, starting later that day. Not that he wasn't excited, but his partner was Siri! Admittedly, that twin was his favorite. Bob sighed and slumped

back to bed.

"Here are your working suits, and you'll find space snacks inside if you didn't finish your breakfast." Bob grabbed the suit and slipped it on. He went over to Siri and said, "So, um, you like space?" Stupid question! Thought Bob. She's at space camp. "Um, yeah, I guess." Surprisingly, to Bob, Siri blushed. They headed into the small, confined Mars habitat. "Wow! I've dreamed of this my whole life!" Bob could see tears welling up in Siri's eyes. "Um, I'm gonna go to get some food. Maybe lift some weights in the fitness area." Bob tried to flex his muscles and grunted uncomfortably. "OK..." said Siri. A few moments later, Bob returned with some two flat burritos and some water. "Thank you." Siri said. "Ummmmmm", Bob stuttered awkwardly, "Ya no problem! I mean, Sure! I mean thanks bro dude man! I mean you're welcome! I mean BYE!!" Bob said.

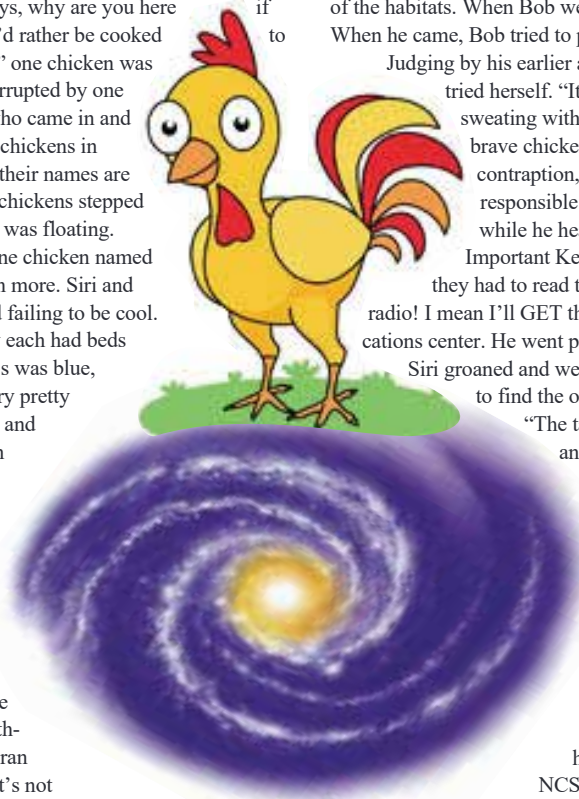
The next three days were pretty cool. Siri and Bob learned how to work in the Mars habitat robotics station and take care of themselves in confined spaces. Soon enough, they were packing up. As Siri put in her space boots and Bob put in his book of space facts, they heard the heavy doors slamming shut of the habitats. When Bob went to the door, he waited for Siri. When he came, Bob tried to push open the door. "It's stuck!"

Judging by his earlier actions, Siri went to the door and tried herself. "It is stuck!" Bob could see her sweating with worry, but she still remained a brave chicken. "If stuck in a space shuttle or contraption, remain calm and get help from a responsible chicken." Bob blushed a little while he heard Siri reciting Safety! The Most Important Key To Being An Astronaut, a book they had to read the first night at camp. "I'll the radio! I mean I'll GET the radio!" Bob ran to the communications center. He went pale under his feathers. "It's dead..."

Siri groaned and went over to the radio table. She tried to find the outlet, thinking it just got unplugged. "The table is stuck!" Siri and Bob gulped and slumped to the floor.

"It's been forever..." Bob mumbled. He was fighting to keep from falling asleep. Siri looked at her Space Things watch. "It has literally only been four minutes," corrected Siri. The two chickens heard their friends and fellow future astronauts talking and slamming the doors of their habitats, getting ready to go to the NCSS (National Chicken Space Station) Center tour. Bob felt sad that he would miss

it, but maybe time with Siri was better... "What was that?" Siri jumped up and turned to the communications area. "It sounds like the space monitor." Bob stood up, very confused. "What are you talking about? None of that monitoring stuff is even hooked up," Bob explained. But, sure enough, as they slowly made their way to the small room. They heard the monitor glitching, like it was stuck between videos. Bob slowly opened the door, and Siri followed. Right when they walked in, the monitor showed a rover's view of Mars, which was where the chickens were training to go. "That's the ChixRover's camera!" They sat staring at the screen for twenty minutes until they saw something move across the screen. Bob and Siri's eyes grew big and they turned to each other. "Aliens?" Part II coming soon...



# HOW TO MAKE PANDA CUPCAKES!

By Abby K. and Abby.A

If you've ever had a cupcake, you know how awesome they are. You know how awesome pandas are, too, right? Well, what if the two fused? Now they have...PANDA CUPCAKES! Cute, awesome, and amazingly delicious, here's an original way to make them.

**Materials:**

- Cupcake liners
- Cupcake pan
- Cool whip
- Jello pudding mix (vanilla)
- Chocolate chips
- Cupcake mix
- Milk

First, after lining your pan, you make your cupcake mix according to the box. Then you preheat your oven. Fill the liners about halfway.

Next, bake for 15- 20 minutes.

While the cupcakes are baking, you can make the frosting by mixing the Jello pudding with 1 cup of milk and then add the Cool Whip.

After your cupcakes cool, you spread the frosting on nice and pretty flat-it won't work in a big dollop.

For each cupcake, you need four chocolate chips. You stick two kind of in an arch for the ears. Then two below that between their ears for the eye patches. Finally, you put one chocolate chips between and below the eyes for the nose.

That is how you make panda cupcakes! These are great to use for parties, and I've had them my last two birthdays. They turned out super cute, and they were fun to make. Have fun and good luck!

**Tips and Tricks!**

You can use any type of mix, but I think Funfetti is moist, looks pretty, and tastes good. You could also use normal cupcake frosting instead of cool whip.

Depending on if you make mini cupcakes, you can find mini chocolate chips too.

You can find black frosting to use for ears, eyes, and a nose, too.

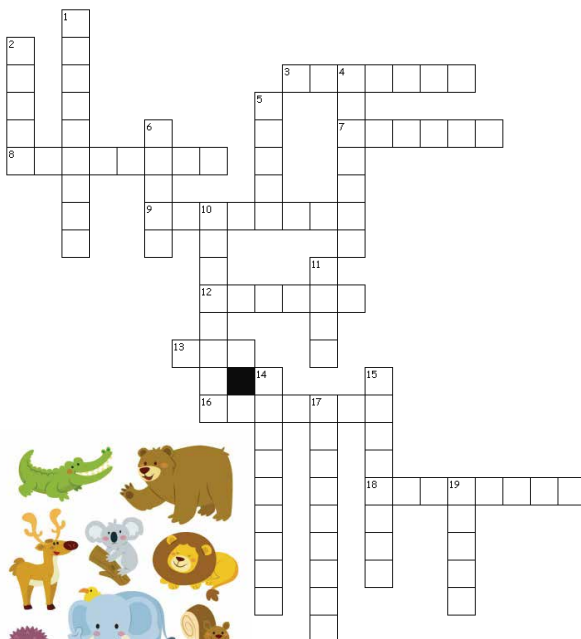
For a healthier option, you could use raisins for the face details. (I've personally never tried it before.)

You can make them pandicorns by sticking a birthday candle in the top of its head if it's a birthday, or you could use a pretzel.



## Cute Animals Crossword

Below are the clues



**Across**

- 3. Animal that lives in the Antarctic and is flightless
- 7. Little fuzzy animal with tall ears
- 8. Fluffy white seal, lives in The Arctic
- 9. Red and in the panda family
- 12. Young, small, fuzzy feline
- 13. Small-large, pink farm animal
- 16. African animal with a super long neck
- 18. Big mammal with a trunk and tusks

**Down**

- 1. A dog that is really long and looks like a hotdog
- 2. Hangs from a tree and has three long claws on each hand
- 4. Whale with a horn
- 5. Ranch animal that spits when threatened
- 6. White and black animal from Africa.
- 10. Baby animal that quacks
- 11. Bambi, as example
- 14. White fox found in The Arctic
- 15. Creature covered in quills
- 17. Small desert fox with tall long ears
- 19. Black and white; loves bamboo

# Cat Word Search

- ADORABLE
- CATS
- CUTE
- FELINE
- FLUFFY
- FURRY
- FUZZY
- KITTEN
- LOVABLE
- MEOW
- PAWS
- PET
- PURR
- SMALL
- SOFT



## Jokes are funny. Who does not like jokes?

By. Link Terhes

1. What do you call a sleeping dinosaur?  
A dino-snore
2. What is fast, loud, and crunchy?  
A rocket chip
3. What did the left eye say to the right eye?  
Just between us something smells
4. Why did the student eat his homework?  
Because his teacher said it was a piece of cake
5. How does a vampire start a letter?  
Tomb it may concern
6. Why was 7 afraid of 8  
Because 7,8,9
7. What is worse than raining cats & dogs  
Hailing taxis
8. How do you know the ocean is friendly?  
It waves
9. How does the moon get a haircut?  
Eclipse it
10. What did the eye say to the other eye  
eye eye matey



## Unicorn

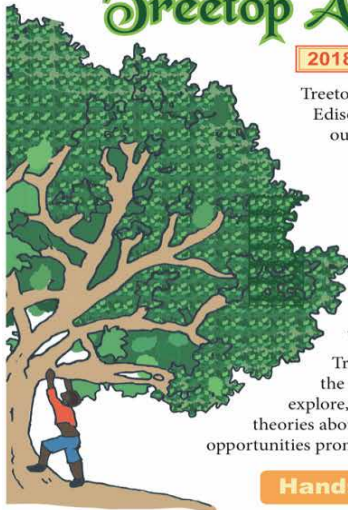
By Sabrina Osburn

Unicorn, unicorn under the night  
Suddenly amazed at the sight  
Looking, looking with all her might  
Somehow being alright  
What is coming on the right?  
Will she be alright?  
Oh, please have no fear do not worry I  
am here.



# Treetop Academics Enrichment Programs

2018/2019 Edison On-Site Childcare and After-School Programs



Treetop Academics has a long-standing relationship offering high quality programs to Edison. As part of our on-site M-F regular care until 6pm, Edison students get our our best classes and most diverse selection of affordable academic enrichment opportunities anywhere.



**Come join our after-school classes in:**

- Art
- Science
- Robotics
- Spanish
- Tutoring/Homework Club
- Maker-Space
- Publishing the Edison newspaper

Need care during no school days? 'Join the Edison Hackathon'

**Registration:** Online registration is open and can be found on our website [www.treetopacademics.com](http://www.treetopacademics.com). Classes start October 4<sup>th</sup> and care starts first day of school!

Treetop Academics is dedicated to providing academically enriching opportunities that put students at the center of learning. While providing the tools for learning, our programs are designed to inspire kids to explore, create, & use their faculties to the best of their individual ability. We encourage students to test their theories about their own learning through practice, exploration, and support. Our unique variety of class opportunities promotes a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (STEAM) experience, and beyond.

Hands-on

Project-Based

Student-centered

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- \* Parent Council and parents for providing so much time, effort, and resource for Edison students

\*\*\*\*\*  
Do you have a story you would like The Edison Examiner to consider for print?

## Sam Loyd's Famous Trick Donkeys puzzle: 1858

Instructions: The solver must cut out the three rectangles and reassemble the pieces so that the two jockeys appear to be riding the two donkeys. Good Luck! Once you solve, don't tell your parents and see if they can get it! It is a great holiday stumper!

