

Curiosity Landed on Mars

I have always loved wheels—any type of wheels from furniture dollies to bicycles fascinated me! I practically learned to walk and ride a two-wheel bike at the same time. When I was 12 years old, I began skating on roller skates, inline skates, and skateboards. The most enjoyable aspect of skating was not going fast or doing tricks. Switching the wheels between my skates and skateboards as well as changing the axles on some of the skateboards captivated me. My brother informed me that mechanical engineers learn about wheels and construct vehicles. Consequently, I began to study the role of mechanical engineers in the car design process.

Earlier last year, I learned about the Curiosity rover and the seven minutes of terror that accompanied its landing. Scientists and engineers did an excellent job of making sure the Curiosity touched down safely and I have enjoyed the pictures taken by the Curiosity rover. This mission motivated me to construct Lego models of the rover and pretend that I was operating the remote control for a mission on Mars. As I continued to study the progression of space vehicles, I became aware of the impressive technological advancement from the Mariner 3 and 4 to the Mars Observer and Mars Odyssey. I could only dream of becoming one of the engineers that assisted in the development of such vehicles. I would love to attend space camp so I can learn more about space travel and the types of technology used to facilitate planetary discovery.