

# Process Paper

I chose to do my NHD project on the Mars Pathfinder mission because I wanted to do something on space exploration. At first I was debating between the Apollo missions and the Pathfinder mission because they were both related to space, and they were both the first of their kind. I chose to go with the Pathfinder mission because the idea of a rover and how it works and communicates back with Earth really interested me. I was interested in space because it is mostly unexplored and that really interests me.

I conducted my research by mostly using websites. I mostly relied on websites because I couldn't find a lot of books on my topic and I didn't have time to go to the Wausau public library to maybe find a book on my topic. I did an interview but that took a long time so I had to conduct most of my research from using websites. I focused on websites because I could gain a lot of good information in a short amount of time because there are thousands of websites on my topic. NASA has put out a lot of really informational websites and documents about my topic. NASA has websites about the mission summary, about the lander and rover, tools and instruments used on the mission, what the mission discovered, and hundreds more.

I chose to create a website because I believe I am good with technology so working on a website would be the easiest and best option for me. At first I was really confused on how to make the website and what the tools did. So I watched the how to video. After I watched the how to video I found it easy to add pages and put in all of the information that I needed. I had problems like; not being able to add pictures, things not saving, and deleting 1 of my pages, but everything worked out in the end.

The National History Day theme is Breaking Barriers. My topic relates to the NHD theme of Breaking Barriers because it was the first successful rover and lander mission to land on Mars and successfully complete all of its assigned tasks. The mission also used an airbag landing system which was the first ever of its kind. From the success of the airbag landing system it was used in Spirit and Opportunity rovers. The Spirit rover was lost in a sand trap, but the Opportunity rover is still in use today. It was also the most advanced and useful rover of its time in 1997.

