



## **All kinds of robots for all kinds of jobs**

What does a robot look like? Do all robots look the same? Do they look like us? There are different types of robots for different types of jobs – each one has a specialty. Today’s robots look very different from one another because they are designed to suit their particular job.

Robots are machines that perform tasks automatically. To do their job, a robot will follow a set of instructions that tell it exactly what to do. These instructions are programmed and stored in the robot’s control center – a computer.

Where can we find robots you might wonder? Maybe you have a robot at home? Some families have robot vacuum cleaners that scurry about the house when activated and help with this routine task. Some robots perform tasks that require a lot of strength. You might find a robot in a factory hard at work lifting heavy materials all day long. Others are used to explore places that are far away or dangerous like space and help us learn. Space robots, like the Phoenix Mars Rover that travelled to Mars, collect information and take images of far away planets or moons. They help us learn more about the universe. A Canadian example is the Canadarm on the space shuttle – a robotic arm used to help astronauts release or retrieve satellites in space.

Robots are used in many places to do all sorts of jobs. If you could invent a robot, what would your robot do and what would it look like?

### ***Get creative***

Invent your own robot. To get inspired, browse through some innovative robots dreamed up by kids on the Canada Science and Technology Museum’s website. Draw or build your robot, then submit it.

<http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca/english/schoolzone/invention/gallery3.cfm>

### ***Learn more***

During the holidays, from December 19 to January 3, explore the science of robotics at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. Become a robo-scientist as you take part in exciting, hands-on activities, test your robot operating skills and marvel at amazing demonstrations. You might even meet the Museum's robot 'Pixel'.

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