



Mars — The Red Planet

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

Mars is the fourth **planet** from the Sun. It is called the Red Planet because its **surface** is covered in red and orange dust. This dust is made of iron, which turns red when it **rusts**. Mars is a cold, dry place, and it looks like a big desert.

Mars is much smaller than Earth, but it has some very big things. It has the tallest **volcano** in the whole **solar system**. This volcano is called Olympus Mons. Mars also has a huge **canyon** called Valles Marineris. It is much longer and deeper than the Grand Canyon on Earth.

Mars has two small **moons** called Phobos and Deimos. These moons are much smaller than our Moon. Scientists think they might be old **asteroids** that were pulled in by Mars's **gravity** a long, long time ago.

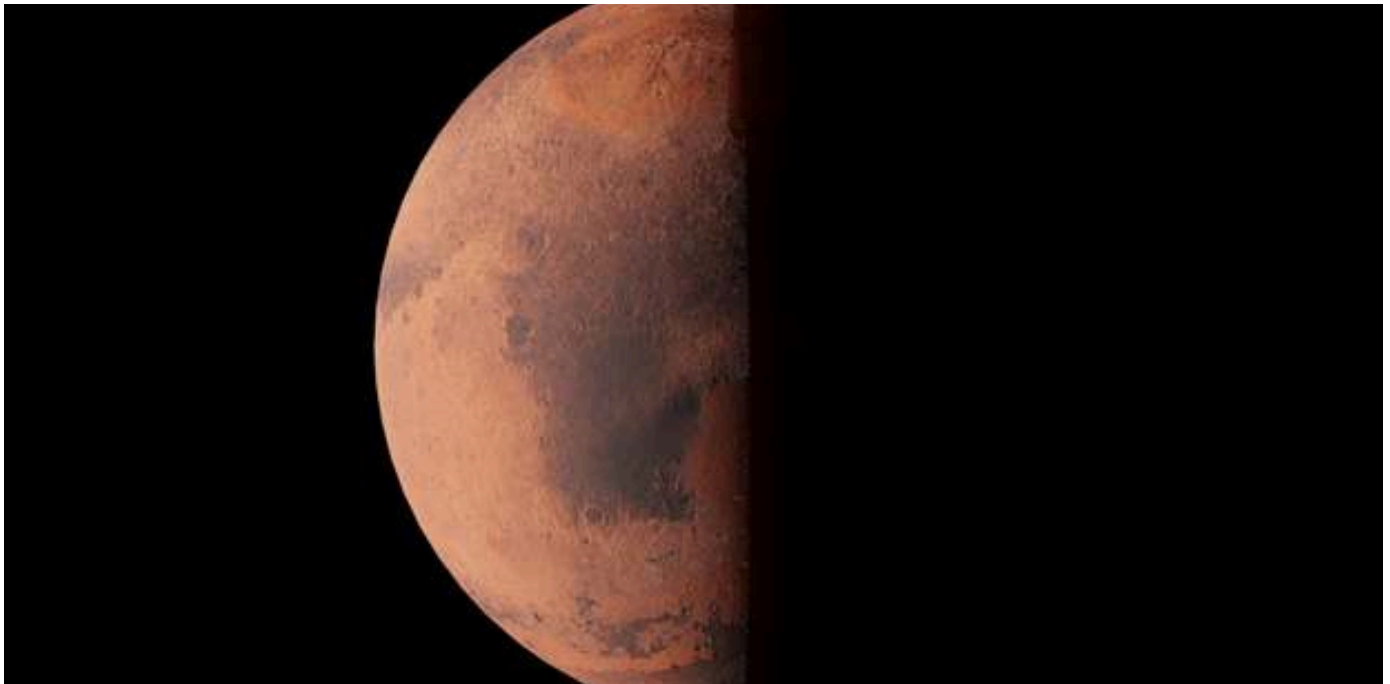
People have sent many **spacecraft** to Mars to learn more about it. Some are called **rovers**. A rover is like a robot car that can drive around and take pictures. The rover Curiosity and the rover Perseverance are both on Mars right now. They look for signs that life once **existed** on Mars.

Scientists dream of sending **humans** to Mars one day. It would take about seven months to fly there. Mars is very cold, and there is not much **oxygen** in the air. People would need special suits and buildings to stay safe. But maybe in the future, we will live on Mars!



A. Vocabulary

1. planet
 2. surface
 3. rusts
 4. volcano
 5. solar system
 6. canyon
 7. moons
 8. gravity
 9. rovers
 10. oxygen
- a. a gas in the air that living things need to breathe
 - b. a large round object that travels around the Sun
 - c. the outside or top layer of something
 - d. the Sun and all the planets and moons around it
 - e. natural objects that travel around a planet
 - f. the force that pulls things toward a planet
 - g. a deep, narrow valley with steep sides
 - h. when iron mixes with air and water and turns reddish-brown
 - i. a mountain that can shoot out hot melted rock
 - j. robot vehicles that explore the surface of a planet



B. True or False

1. T F Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun.
2. T F Mars is called the Red Planet because it has oceans.
3. T F Olympus Mons is the tallest volcano in the solar system.
4. T F Mars has two moons called Phobos and Deimos.
5. T F The Grand Canyon on Earth is bigger than Valles Marineris.
6. T F Rovers are robot cars that explore the surface of Mars.
7. T F The rover Curiosity has already returned to Earth.
8. T F Mars has lots of oxygen in its air.
9. T F It would take about seven months to fly from Earth to Mars.



C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: gravity volcano rovers oxygen surface

1. Mars is covered in red dust because the iron on its _____ rusts.
2. Olympus Mons is the tallest _____ in the solar system.
3. Robots called _____ drive around Mars and take pictures.
4. The _____ of Mars is weaker than the gravity on Earth.
5. Humans would need special suits because Mars does not have enough _____ to breathe.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. Why is Mars called the Red Planet?
2. What is Olympus Mons?
3. What are the names of Mars's two moons?
4. What do rovers do on Mars?
5. Why would humans need special suits on Mars?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Would you like to visit Mars someday? Why or why not?
2. What do you think life on Mars would be like?
3. Why is it important for scientists to study Mars?



Answer Key

Mars — The Red Planet

Teacher Reference Only | tahricteaches.com

A. Vocabulary

1-b, 2-c, 3-h, 4-i, 5-d, 6-g, 7-e, 8-f, 9-j, 10-a

B. True or False

1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-F, 9-T

C. Fill in the Blanks

1-surface, 2-volcano, 3-rovers, 4-gravity, 5-oxygen

D. Comprehension Questions

1. Mars is called the Red Planet because its surface is covered in red and orange dust made of iron that rusts.
2. Olympus Mons is the tallest volcano in the solar system, located on Mars.
3. Mars's two moons are called Phobos and Deimos.
4. Rovers are robot cars that drive around Mars, take pictures, and look for signs of life.
5. Humans would need special suits on Mars because it is very cold and there is not enough oxygen to breathe.