

Mars: The Red Planet Answers

1. Tick the correct response.

We cannot breathe on Mars because the atmosphere does not have enough:

- ☐ air
- ☐ carbon dioxide
- ☐ atmosphere
- ☒ **oxygen**

2. Find and copy the correct word to complete the sentence.

Mars is named after the Roman god of **war**.

3. Which of these are reasons why Mars is a good place to explore? Tick **two**.

- ☒ Mars gets enough sunlight to use solar power.
- ☐ A day on Mars is very short.
- ☐ There is no gravity on Mars.
- ☒ There is a little water in the soil on Mars.

4. Tick the correct response.

The Curiosity rover was launched on:

- ☒ 26th November 2011
- ☐ 28th November 2011
- ☐ 6th August 2012
- ☐ 16th August 2012

5. How many moons does Mars have?

Mars has two moons

6. What is a day called on Mars and how long is it?

A day on Mars is called a 'sol' and it is 24 hours and 37 minutes long.

7. What is the Curiosity rover trying to find out?

The main goals of the rover are to:

- **study the planet's climate and what it is made of;**
- **search for water;**
- **find out whether Mars could have ever supported life.**

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- ☒ There is a little water in the soil on Mars.

4. How many moons does Mars have and what are their names?

Mars has two moons named Phobos and Deimos.

5. What is a day called on Mars and how long is it?

A day on Mars is called a 'sol' and it is 24 hours and 37 minutes long.

6. Find and copy one **caption** from the text.

Accept either:

- **A 'true colour' photograph of Mars taken by the OSIRIS instrument on the European Space Agency (ESA) Rosetta spacecraft in February 2007.**
- **A self-portrait taken by NASA's Curiosity rover.**

7. Why does it seem odd at first that NASA has chosen to explore Mars and not Venus?

Accept any correct explanation that states that Venus is closer to Earth than Mars. For example, it seems odd at first that NASA would travel to Mars first because Mars is not the closest planet to Earth.

8. Why do you think the author has put the facts about Mars' size and atmosphere into a 'quick facts' box?

Accept responses relating to the fact that the author has made the information:

- **more digestible/easier to read;**
- **easier to find quickly;**
- **more interesting to look at.**

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5. Find and copy a word from the text which means 'working'.

Accept 'operational' or 'active'.

6. a) Tick the correct box for each statement to say whether it is true or false.

	True	False
Venus is so hot that lead would melt on its surface.	✓	
Mars has a diameter of 6,793km.		✓
A day on Mars is slightly shorter than a day on Earth.		✓

- b) Correct any false statements here:

Mars has a diameter of 6,779km.

A day on Mars is 37 minutes longer than a day on Earth.

7. a) Which planet has the highest possible temperature: Earth or Mars? What is it?

Earth, 58°C

- b) Which has the lowest possible temperature?

Mars, -140°C

8. Why does it seem odd at first that NASA has chosen to explore Mars and not Venus?

Accept any correct explanation that states that Venus is closer to Earth than Mars. For example, it seems odd at first that NASA would travel to Mars first because Mars is not the closest planet to Earth.

9. Look at the section titled 'The Mars Rover'. What other subtitle could you use for this section? Explain why you have chosen it.

Accept suitable titles for the section and an explanation of why the title is catchier, more appropriate or more interesting than the original, for example 'I would call the section 'Curiosity' as it is the name of the rover that the section is talking about but the section also describes the things that humans are curious to find out, so it links to human curiosity, too.'

10. Look at the section titled 'Why Mars?'. Why do you think the author has put the facts about Mars into bullet points?

Accept responses relating to the fact that the author has made the information:

- **more digestible/easier to read;**
- **easier to find quickly;**
- **more interesting to look at;**
- **less repetitive as each bullet shares one sentence opener.**