

Mission: Mars

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What type of celestial body is Mars?

2. Where is it, or which body does it orbit?

3. Copy an important time period and say what it measures.

4. Copy a temperature or a feature of its environment.

Type	Rocky planet
Diameter	6,779 km
Mass (Earth = 1)	0.107 Earth masses
Average distance	1.52 AU · 227.9 million km
Orbital period	686.98 days
Rotation	24 h 37 min
Temperature	≈ -63 °C on average
Main orbiting bodies	Phobos and Deimos

5. Choose two figures from the table and explain their units.

6. Explain this comparison in your own words: Its diameter is about 53% of Earth's.

Check and explain

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7. What are Mars's two small moons?

- A. Io and Europa
- B. Phobos and Deimos
- C. Titan and Rhea
- D. Nix and Hydra

8. Which rover has explored Jezero crater?

- A. Perseverance
- B. Cassini
- C. Juno
- D. BepiColombo

9. Which gas dominates the Martian atmosphere?

- A. Oxygen
- B. Nitrogen
- C. Carbon dioxide
- D. Hydrogen

10. What evidence shows it was once wetter?

- A. Living coral reefs
- B. Ancient riverbeds
- C. Fossil forests
- D. Present-day oceans

11. Write two units from the table and the quantities they measure.

12. Why is an illustration not always drawn to scale?

13. Give one similarity and one difference compared with Earth.

Investigate like a scientist

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Text to analyse

Mars has giant volcanoes, enormous canyons and traces of ancient rivers. Rovers and orbiters investigate conditions that might once have supported microbial life. Olympus Mons rises about 22 kilometres above its surroundings, and Valles Marineris stretches for several thousand kilometres. Mars also bears traces of ancient rivers and lakes.

14. Copy one observation or checkable fact from the text.

15. Write a scientific question you would like to investigate.

Writing mini-mission

Imagine a spacecraft studying Mars. Describe what it observes and what it aims to measure. Write 5 to 7 sentences using at least three scientific terms. Do not invent a solid surface on a gas giant or present a hypothesis as a fact.

Scientific terms used: _____