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# The Search for Life on Mars

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## Chapter 1: Looking at Mars from Earth

### Comprehension Questions

1. What did the ancient Greeks and Romans observe about Mars and other planets?
  - a. The Greeks and Romans noticed that Martians had landed on Earth.
  - b. The Greeks and Romans observed that planets travel around the sun just like Earth.
  - c. *The Greeks and Romans thought they noticed some strange stars that moved differently than the other stars.*
  - d. The Greeks and Romans observed that gods lived on these planets.
  
2. What did people learn about Mars when they got a closer look at it?
  - a. They discovered that Mars had three moons.
  - b. They discovered that Mars looked nothing like Earth.
  - c. They discovered that Mars did not rotate on its axis.
  - d. *They discovered that, about every 24 hours, Mars turned completely around.*
  
3. Why did people think there might be life on Mars?
  - a. *Because astronomers thought they saw canals on Mars, and they knew that canals were made by intelligent creatures.*
  - b. Because a famous astronomer reported that he could see rivers and farms on Mars.
  - c. Because Mars had white patches on its north and south poles.
  - d. Because a reporter saw a serpent with black eyes.

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## Chapter 1: Looking at Mars from Earth

### Vocabulary Questions

1. In ancient times, people connected the dots between the stars to make \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. *constellations*
  - b. patches
  - c. planets
  - d. canals
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ use glass lenses to make farway objects seem much closer.
  - a. Spacecraft
  - b. *Telescopes*
  - c. Radios
  - d. Skyscrapers
  
3. Earth takes about 24 hours to rotate once around its \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. poles
  - b. *axis*
  - c. launch
  - d. sun
  
4. People who study the stars and other objects in space are called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. *astronomers*
  - b. Romans
  - c. artists
  - d. wanderers

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## Chapter 2: A Closer Look

### Comprehension Questions

1. How far away is Mars?
  - a. It would take about 20 years to travel from the Earth to Mars.
  - b. Mars is farther from Earth than any other planet.
  - c. Mars is about as far away as Earth's moon.
  - d. *The distance between Earth and Mars is always changing.*
  
2. Why did the location of Mars make it seem likely that there could be life there?
  - a. *Because Mars is close enough to the Sun to be in the Sun's "life zone".*
  - b. Because Earth has one moon, but Mars has three moons.
  - c. Because Mars is close enough to Earth to grow crops.
  - d. Because Mars has fields of ice at its north and south poles.
  
3. What did scientists learn from the first spacecraft to travel to Mars?
  - a. Martian soil is good for growing crops.
  - b. *Mars seemed to be a dead planet with no signs of living things.*
  - c. Mars is neither too hot nor too cold to support life.
  - d. There are canals for water crisscrossing the surface of Mars.

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## Chapter 2: A Closer Look

### Vocabulary Questions

1. Spaceships with no people on board are called \_\_\_\_\_ spacecraft.
  - a. solar
  - b. lifeless
  - c. unmanned
  - d. mission
  
2. Our \_\_\_\_\_ is made up of our Sun, the planets, and other objects.
  - a. Solar System
  - b. constellation
  - c. diagram
  - d. orbit
  
3. The United States created an organization called \_\_\_\_\_ for studying and exploring space.
  - a. Viking
  - b. Red Planet
  - c. Night Sky
  - d. NASA
  
4. The planets move around the Sun in paths called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. kilometers
  - b. orbits
  - c. meters
  - d. lenses

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## Chapter 3: Rocks from Mars

### Comprehension Questions

1. In 1911, some rocks fell from the sky above the country of Egypt. Where did they come from?
  - a. They fell from Nakhla.
  - b. They fell from a giant asteroid.
  - c. They fell from the surface of Mars.
  - d. They fell from from Earth.
  
2. A team of scientists said that they had found something inside a rock from space. What was it?
  - a. The scientists found a tiny form of life called a microbe.
  - b. The scientists found signs of water.
  - c. The scientists found the fossil of a plant seed.
  - d. The scientists found gases trapped inside the rock.
  
3. What can happen when asteroids smash together in space and explode into pieces?
  - a. The asteroids may fall to Earth and form volcanoes.
  - b. The asteroids may form new stars.
  - c. The pieces may fall to Earth or other planets as meteorites.
  - d. The pieces may slow down and form rings of ice.

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# The Search for Life on Mars

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## Chapter 3: Rocks from Mars

### Vocabulary Questions

1. Chunks of rock or metal that fall to Earth from space are called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. asteroids
  - b. stars
  - c. *meteorites*
  - d. microbes
  
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a tool that makes tiny things look much larger.
  - a. *microscope*
  - b. meteorite
  - c. telescope
  - d. constellation
  
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a tiny form of life that can be seen with a microscope.
  - a. mystery
  - b. myth
  - c. canal
  - d. *microbe*
  
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is something that died a very long time ago, and was preserved, usually in rock.
  - a. Martian
  - b. *fossil*
  - c. Nakhla
  - d. diagram

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# The Search for Life on Mars

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## Chapter 4: A Tour of Mars

### Comprehension Questions

1. What is the weather like on Mars?
  - a. Overall, Mars is a lot hotter than Earth.
  - b. In some ways, the weather on Mars is like the weather on Earth.
  - c. On most days, there is rain and strong wind on Mars.
  - d. The weather on Mars is like the weather on the Moon.
  
2. What is the biggest volcano in the Solar System?
  - a. Olympus Mons on Mars.
  - b. The Grand Canyon in Arizona.
  - c. A volcano in the Hawaiian Islands.
  - d. Valles Marineris on Mars.
  
3. What has been found on the surface of Mars that makes the Grand Canyon look tiny?
  - a. A giant canyon called Valles Marineris.
  - b. An asteroid as large as the United States.
  - c. A dry river channel that is more than 3,000 miles (5000 kilometers) long.
  - d. Many volcanoes that form a long mountain.

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# The Search for Life on Mars

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## Chapter 4: A Tour of Mars

### Vocabulary Questions

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is an imaginary line that goes around the middle of a planet.
  - a. canal
  - b. axis
  - c. equator
  - d. Celsius
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the gas that humans need to breathe in order to live.
  - a. Axis
  - b. Life zone
  - c. Oxygen
  - d. Nakhla
  
3. Mars and Earth have a \_\_\_\_\_ on the outside, like the shell of an egg.
  - a. crack
  - b. gas
  - c. metal
  - d. crust
  
4. When a volcano erupts, hot, molten rock called \_\_\_\_\_ pours out from a hot spot.
  - a. lava
  - b. myth
  - c. lander
  - d. data



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## Chapter 5: A Mission to Mars

### Comprehension Questions

1. In 2004, a spacecraft from Earth reached Mars. Why was it so dangerous for the spacecraft to try to land on Mars?
  - a. Because Mars is surrounded by asteroids and meteorites.
  - b. Because a strong wind might carry the spacecraft farther into space.
  - c. Because the rockets on the spacecraft might explode in the thin air of Mars.
  - d. Because speed and friction might cause the spacecraft to crash and burn.
  
2. What happened when the spacecraft tried to land?
  - a. The lander's airbag failed.
  - b. The lander sent a radio signal back to Earth.
  - c. The lander's parachute became tangled in the wheels.
  - d. A scientist at NASA sent the wrong command to the lander.
  
3. What passenger was the spacecraft carrying?
  - a. A NASA scientist named Percival Lowell.
  - b. A robot designed to explore the surface of Mars.
  - c. A camera attached to weather balloons.
  - d. A computer called Mariner 9.

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# The Search for Life on Mars

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## Chapter 5: A Mission to Mars

### Vocabulary Questions

1. \_\_\_\_\_ studies rocks and how a planet changes over time.
  - a. An astronomer
  - b. A lander
  - c. A geologist
  - d. Valles Marineris
  
2. The blanket of air that surrounds a planet is called the planet's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Axis
  - b. orbit
  - c. Nakhla
  - d. atmosphere
  
3. If you rub your hands together very fast, you'll feel the heat that can be caused by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. data
  - b. friction
  - c. lava
  - d. oxygen
  
4. Sending \_\_\_\_\_ to gather information about Mars is a lot cheaper, safer, and easier than sending a human.
  - a. microbes
  - b. an astronomer
  - c. data
  - d. a robot

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# The Search for Life on Mars

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## Chapter 6: Follow the Water

### Comprehension Questions

1. How did scientists decide where to send the rover called Opportunity?
  - a. They looked for flat places with only small rocks.
  - b. They looked for places that were most likely to have had water a long time ago.
  - c. They looked for dark lines that might have been roads.
  - d. They asked people to vote on interesting places to send the rover.
  
2. What clues did Opportunity find about water on Mars?
  - a. Opportunity collected a few drops of water on the lens of its camera.
  - b. The wheels on Opportunity started to rust which meant the air was damp.
  - c. Opportunity found tiny objects in the rock that might have been formed by water.
  - d. Opportunity sent back photos that showed storm clouds.
  
3. What clues about water did Spirit find?
  - a. Spirit found fossils of plants and trees.
  - b. Spirit took photos of an ancient lake.
  - c. Spirit found volcanic rock that may have been moved or changed by flowing water.
  - d. Spirit found sedimentary rock, which is formed by water.

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# The Search for Life on Mars

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## Chapter 6: Follow the Water

### Vocabulary Questions

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is formed when layers of sand and mud build up on top of each other.
  - a. *Sedimentary rock*
  - b. Volcanic rock
  - c. Lava
  - d. Hematite
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a dip in the surface of a planet that looks a bit like the inside of a bowl.
  - a. A plain
  - b. A lander
  - c. Crust
  - d. *A crater*
  
3. The rovers collected information about Mars. Scientists call this kind of information \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. gizmos
  - b. *data*
  - c. berries
  - d. myths
  
4. The kind of life that we see on Earth needs water to develop and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. orbit
  - b. erupt
  - c. *survive*
  - d. crash