Article 1: A Soft Landing

Comprehension Questions

1. How did the NASA team plan to slow down the rovers as they fell toward the surface of Mars?

a. The NASA team planned to use a robot to slow the rovers down.

b. *The NASA team planned to use parachutes to slow the rovers down.*

c. The NASA team planned to fire a rocket to slow the rovers down.

d. The NASA team planned to send a scientist to Mars to slow the rovers down.

2. What happened during testing that shocked the team?

a. A skydiver's parachute ripped to shreds.

b. The airbags did not pass the test in the wind tunnel.

c. A NASA scientist was killed.

d. *The airbags split open as they bounced onto the ground.*

Vocabulary Questions

1. NASA was started by the United States government to study and explore _____.

a. *space*

b. machines

c. rovers

d. airplanes

2. The robots were called _____ because they were built to move across the surface of Mars.

a. monkeys

b. *rovers*

c. rockets

d. dogs

Article 2: Working in Mars Time

Comprehension Questions

1. How long is a day on Mars?

- **a.** The same as a day on Earth.
- **b.** About 40 minutes.
- **c.** Each day is longer than the day before.
- **d.** *24 hours and 39.5 minutes.*

2. Why did one rover wake up when the other rover went to sleep?

- **a.** Because the rover teams took turns sleeping.
- **b.** Because the scientists wanted to save on power.
- **c.** *Because the rovers were working on opposite sides of the planet.*
- **d.** Because the scientists could only test one rover at a time.

Vocabulary Questions

1. When a planet spins all the way around once, we say it completes one _____.

- **a.** Solar System
- **b.** opportunity
- **c.** *rotation*
- **d.** minute

2. _____ is made up of our Sun, the planets and their moons, and other objects.

- **a.** NASA
- **b.** *The Solar System*
- **c.** The rover team
- **d.** Daytime

Article 3: The Rovers at Work

Comprehension Questions

1. How did the rovers spend their days on Mars?

a. The rovers made one rotation each day.

b. The rovers went to sleep during the day and worked at night.

c. The rovers used airbags to bounce along the surface of Mars every morning.

d. *The rovers used tools to study the rocks and soil on Mars.*

2. How did NASA scientists talk to the rovers?

a. The scientists used solar panels to talk to the rovers.

b. *The scientists sent radio signals to a satellite dish.*

c. The scientists used a computer to "shoot and scoot."

d. The scientists waited for the rovers to talk first.

Vocabulary Questions

1. NASA scientists used the rovers to look around and gather _____.

a. water

b. living things

c. *data*

d. shreds

2. Many buildings today get electric power from _____.

a. *solar panels*

b. radio signals

c. satellites

d. spacecraft

Article 4: Keeping the Rovers Going

Comprehension Questions

1. When Spirit had a bad wheel, how did the rover team figure out what to do?

- **a.** *The team taught a test rover how to drive without the bad wheel.*
- **b.** The team drove Spirit backwards.
- **c.** The team stopped Spirit and used Opportunity.
- **d.** The team sent a signal and told Spirit to drop the bad wheel.

2. Why was the team worried about sending Opportunity down a steep hill?

- **a.** Because Opportunity only had 5 wheels that still worked.
- **b.** Because Opportunity had very little power.
- **c.** Because there might be water at the bottom of the hill.
- **d.** *Because Opportunity might get stuck in a crater and never get out.*

Vocabulary Questions

1. A _____ is a hole in the ground that is shaped like a bowl.

- **a.** rotation
- **b.** cliff
- **c.** shred
- **d.** *crater*

2. The rover engineers took a big _____ when they decided to send Opportunity down a steep hill.

- **a.** photo
- **b.** rotation
- **c.** *risk*
- **d.** scientist