

The Search for Life on Mars

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Quizzes

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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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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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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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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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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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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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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