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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Mars: The Red Planet



Years ago, NASA sent two little robot rovers named *Spirit* and *Opportunity* to explore the planet's surface. NASA is currently planning a manned mission to Mars around the year 2030.

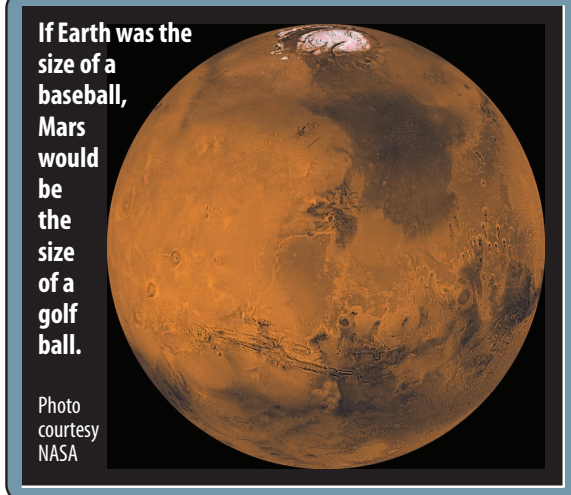
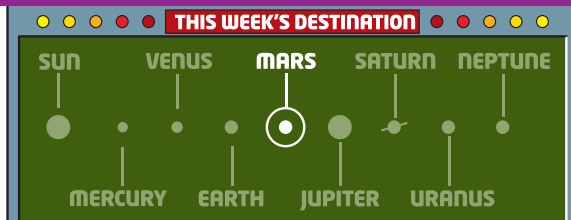
Dear Kid Scoop Readers -

Have you ever noticed that one of the stars at _____ looks a bit red? That is not a star, that is the _____ Mars.

Mars looks a little like a red star in the night sky because there is oxidized _____ in much of its soil.

Mars may look _____, but scientists think it once had a lot of _____. Today there is frozen water at the _____ and perhaps underground.

POLES DRY PLANET NIGHT IRON WATER



Grand Canyon of Mars

An enormous canyon on Mars stretches a quarter of the way around the planet. The canyon is called **Valles Marineris**. And it is so large that it would stretch from Los Angeles, California to the city below. Unscramble it!

WEN KROY

Life on Mars?

Some ancient astronomers looked at Mars through their telescopes and saw lines that looked like irrigation canals. Because of this, they thought people lived on Mars.

Today the question of whether there is, or ever was, life on Mars is still not answered. What we do know is that it would be impossible for Earthlings to live on Mars without special clothing and shelters.

One problem for humans on Mars would be the freezing nighttime temperatures. Because of the thin atmosphere, the heat of the day escapes at night and temperatures can drop down to -110°F. At the planet's poles, the temperature can plunge to an incredible -220°F.

The largest volcano in our solar system is found on Mars. It is called **Olympus Mons**. This volcano's base would cover the entire state of Washington and half of Oregon. Olympus Mons rises some 17 miles (27 km) above the surrounding land. That's three times higher than the tallest mountain on Earth. Do the math to discover its name.

- E = 11 + 5
- M = 13 - 2
- N = 8 + 9
- O = 16 - 2
- R = 18 + 2
- S = 20 - 5
- T = 14 + 5
- U = 18 - 8
- V = 6 + 7

11	14	10	17	19
16	13	16	20	16
15	19	16	10	14

BOILING TROUBLE

The low air pressure on Mars causes liquids to boil at a lower temperature than on Earth. Without a pressurized suit, this would boil on Mars!

Y _ _ _ _
 _ _ _ _ _
 Circle every third letter to reveal the answer.

**RTVJSOBNUV
 XRQBPML
 NCDROFGD**

Extra! Extra!

Mars Adjectives

Look through the newspaper to find five adjectives that describe Mars.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

Use this chart to answer these questions.

- A year on Mars is about how many Earth years?
 Almost two Over three
- Mars is larger than Earth.
 True False
- Mars orbits faster than Earth.
 True False

	MARS	EARTH
DISTANCE FROM THE SUN	155 MILLION MILES	93 MILLION MILES
TIME TO ORBIT THE SUN	687 DAYS	365 DAYS
ORBIT SPEED	55,133 MILES PER HOUR	70,000 MILES PER HOUR
LENGTH OF DAY	24 hours 40 minutes	JUST A BIT OVER 24 HOURS
CIRCUMFERENCE	4,220 MILES	7,926 MILES
NUMBER OF MOONS	2	1

SOURCE: planetfacts.org

Kid Scoop® Puzzler

How Mars Got Its Name

Ancient Romans thought the color red represented blood and war, so they named the reddish planet after their god of war, Mars.

Other ancient people also named the planet after their gods of war. Use the code to find out what this red planet was called in some other cultures.

● = A
 ● = E
 ● = G
 ● = L
 ● = N
 ● = R
 ● = S

BABYLONIAN:
 [Red] [Red] [Red] [Red] [Red] [Red]

GREEK:
 [Red] [Red] [Red] [Red]



Double Double Word Search

TELESCOPES IRRIGATION OXIDIZED CANALS NIGHT POLES MARS STAR IRON BOIL SUIT DRY DAY RED

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

T	E	M	S	E	L	O	P	N	P
Y	A	D	E	R	A	I	O	T	U
R	R	E	S	D	E	R	C	S	A
N	B	D	E	Z	I	D	I	X	O
I	R	R	I	G	A	T	I	O	N
R	E	F	M	R	E	E	B	Z	S
A	C	A	N	A	L	S	O	I	U
T	R	N	G	T	H	G	I	N	I
S	E	P	O	C	S	E	L	E	T

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

Vowel Planet

Select ten words in today's paper for which you know of words that rhyme. Glue each newspaper word onto a card. Then write the rhyming word on another card. Use your rhyming words cards to play "Go Fish" with a friend!

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

What did the Martian say when it landed in a garden?



ANSWER: "Take me to your weeder."

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