

Name:

Topic: The Red Planet: Our Neighbor Mars

Level: B1  
(Intermediate)

## Reading Comprehension



This worksheet is designed to practice scanning for specific information, understanding vocabulary in context, and answering detailed comprehension questions.

### The Red Planet: Our Neighbor Mars

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and is often called the "Red Planet." It gets this nickname because its surface is covered in iron oxide, which is the same chemical that makes rust on Earth. Because of this, the planet looks like a rusty-red ball floating in the sky.



Although Mars is our neighbor, it is very different from Earth. First, it is much colder. The average temperature on Mars is about minus 60 degrees Celsius (-80 degrees Fahrenheit). Second, the atmosphere is very thin and is mostly made of carbon dioxide. This means that humans cannot breathe there without a special space suit.

Scientists are very interested in Mars because they believe it might have had water in the past. Today, we know there is ice at the planet's north and south poles. NASA has sent several robotic vehicles, called "rovers," to drive around the surface. These rovers take photos and study the rocks to see if life ever existed there.

In the future, space agencies hope to send astronauts to Mars. However, the trip is long and dangerous. It takes about seven months to travel there from Earth. Despite the challenges, many people dream of one day building a city on the Red Planet.



Name:

Topic: The Red Planet: Our Neighbor Mars

Level: B1  
(Intermediate)

## Reading Comprehension



**Part 1: Multiple Choice Choose the best answer based on the text.**

**1- Why is Mars called the "Red Planet"?**

- a. It is very hot and looks like fire.
- b. It is covered in iron oxide, which looks like rust.
- c. The atmosphere turns the sunlight red.
- d. It is the closest planet to the Sun.

**2- What is the atmosphere on Mars mostly composed of?**

- a. Oxygen
- b. Nitrogen
- c. Carbon Dioxide
- d. Water Vapor

**3- According to the text, why are scientists interested in Mars?**

- a. They want to mine gold there.
- b. They think it might have had water in the past.
- c. They want to bring Martian animals to Earth.
- d. It is the warmest planet in the solar system.

**4- How long does it take to travel from Earth to Mars?**

- a. Seven days
- b. Seven weeks
- c. Seven months
- d. Seven years

**Part 2: Fill in the Blanks Complete the sentences using one word from the text.**

**5-** Mars is the \_\_\_\_\_ planet from the Sun.

**6-** The \_\_\_\_\_ on Mars is very thin, so humans cannot breathe without help.

**7-** Robotic vehicles that explore the surface of Mars are called \_\_\_\_\_.

**8-** There is frozen water, or \_\_\_\_\_, located at the north and south poles of the planet.

**Part 3: True or False Read the statement and circle True or False.**

**9-** The average temperature on Mars is hotter than on Earth.

**True / False**

**10-** Humans have already visited Mars and built a small city.

**True / False**



**Name:**

**Topic:** The Red Planet: Our Neighbor Mars

**Level:** B1  
(Intermediate)

## Reading Comprehension

### Teacher's Notes

**Preparation:** Print one copy of the worksheet per student.

**Warm-up:** Ask students what they already know about Mars. Why do people call it the "Red Planet"? Would they ever want to visit?

### Procedure:

1. Have students read the text silently once for general understanding (skimming).
2. Ask them to read a second time, highlighting any new vocabulary.
3. Students complete the 10 questions individually.
4. Review answers as a class.

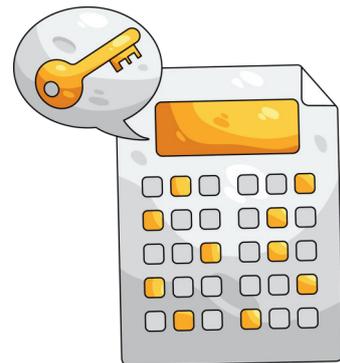
**Follow-up:** Discuss the idea of humans living on Mars. What would be the biggest challenge? (e.g., cold, breathing, food).

---

## Answer Key

### Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. b (It is covered in iron oxide...)
2. c (Carbon Dioxide)
3. b (They think it might have had water...)
4. c (Seven months)



### Part 2: Fill in the Blanks

5. fourth 6. atmosphere 7. rovers 8. ice

### Part 3: True or False

9. False (The text says it is much colder, minus 60 degrees Celsius.)
10. False (The text says agencies hope to send astronauts and people dream of building a city.)