

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Mars

By Cynthia Sherwood

**T**he “Red Planet”—Mars—is the fourth planet from the sun and one of Earth’s next-door neighbors. Mars was named after the Roman god of war because its reddish-orange color looks a little like blood. The special color actually comes from rust and other minerals in its soil.

: no evidence of any  
: little green men on Mars,  
: but some scientists do think they’ve found  
: proof that tiny, microscopic creatures  
: once lived on Mars. The evidence comes  
: from meteorites found on Earth. Other  
: scientists say they don’t believe it, so we  
: don’t know the right answer



## Preview

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Scientists say there’s strong evidence that water once flowed over the surface of Mars. They also think there still may be water in some places underneath the surface.

You may have read a book or seen a movie that featured “Martians.” There’s

: while rovers roam the planet every  
: day, no person has ever set foot on Mars.  
: NASA has made plans for a manned  
: mission to take place decades from  
: now. Perhaps then we’ll learn the truth of  
: whether there was once life on a planet  
: besides Earth.



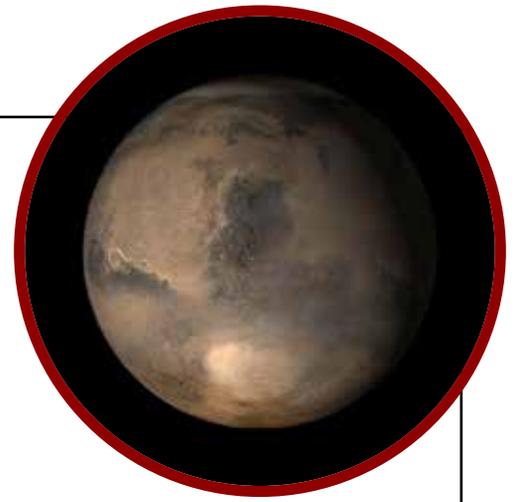
**NASA's Curiosity Mars rover**



# ANSWER KEY

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1. How did Mars get its reddish color?

**Martian soil has rust and other minerals in it that give the planet its reddish color.**

2. Have there ever been living things on Mars?

a. no

b. yes

c. only below the soil

**d. Some scientists think so, but others aren't sure.**



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4. What is Olympus Mons?

a. a canyon

**b. a volcano**

c. a crater

d. a moon

5. How many people have walked on Mars?

a. one

b. two

c. eleven

**d. none**

6. What is a Mars rover?

**A radio-controlled robot that moves around the surface taking pictures.**