

Mars

Mars is named after the Roman god of war. Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and is about half the size of Earth. It is a dry, dusty, rocky planet where the soil appears reddish brown because it contains iron oxide, or rust. Mars is sometimes called "The Red Planet"

Mars has a very thin atmosphere consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and argon. The temperature on Mars ranges from -125 to 23 degrees Fahrenheit. It is too cold and the atmosphere is too thin for liquid water to exist on the surface of Mars. Water does exist in the frozen polar ice caps of Mars.



Image courtesy of <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov>

Of all the planets, Mars has the largest volcanic mountain, Olympus Mons, and the largest known canyon, Valles Marineris, in the solar system. Olympus Mons is three times taller than Mt. Everest and Valles Marineris dwarfs the Grand Canyon.

Mars has two small natural satellites (or moons), Phobos and Deimos. It is thought that these moons may be asteroids captured by Mars' gravity.

Since Mars has an axial tilt similar to that of Earth, it has seasons just like the Earth. Mars orbits the sun once every 1.8807 Earth years. A day on Mars is 24.62 hours, about the same as it is on Earth.

After reading the information above, fold your paper on the line and try to answer the questions below without referring back to the data. (Check the box with the correct answer.)

- How many natural satellites does Mars have?
 two three four
- Mars has the largest volcanic mountain and the largest known _____?
 natural satellites polar ice caps canyon
- A day on Mars is about as long as a day on _____?
 Earth Mercury Venus
- Why does the soil on Mars appear reddish-brown?

Mars

Mars is named after the Roman god of war. Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and is about half the size of Earth. It is a dry, dusty, rocky planet where the soil appears reddish brown because it contains iron oxide, or rust. Mars is sometimes called "The Red Planet"

Mars has a very thin atmosphere consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and argon. The temperature on Mars ranges from -125 to 23 degrees Fahrenheit. It is too cold and the atmosphere is too thin for liquid water to exist on the surface of Mars. Water does exist in the frozen polar ice caps of Mars.



Image courtesy of <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov>

Of all the planets, Mars has the largest volcanic mountain, Olympus Mons, and the largest known canyon, Valles Marineris, in the solar system. Olympus Mons is three times taller than Mt. Everest and Valles Marineris dwarfs the Grand Canyon.

Mars has two small natural satellites (or moons), Phobos and Deimos. It is thought that these moons may be asteroids captured by Mars' gravity.

Since Mars has an axial tilt similar to that of Earth, it has seasons just like the Earth. Mars orbits the sun once every 1.8807 Earth years. A day on Mars is 24.62 hours, about the same as it is on Earth.

After reading the information above, fold your paper on the line and try to answer the questions below without referring back to the data. (Check the box with the correct answer.)

- How many natural satellites does Mars have?
 two three four
- Mars has the largest volcanic mountain and the largest known _____?
 natural satellites polar ice caps canyon
- A day on Mars is about as long as a day on _____?
 Earth Mercury Venus
- Why does the soil on Mars appear reddish brown?
The soil on Mars appears reddish-brown because it contains rust (iron oxide).