



## ***Mission to Mars***

**1** Using the contents page, which chapter are you most interested in reading about?

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.5*

**2** Label the other planets in the diagram on pages 6–7.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.7*

**3** Write a fact box about Earth using information on pages 6–9.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.1*

**4** Create a timeline with all the significant dates in the book.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.1*

**5** Write your own glossary entries for three terms that you didn't know before reading the book, or for three terms that a younger reader might not know.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.4*

**6** Write a newspaper article about the 1997 Mars exploration. Include a headline and a subheading.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.3*

**7** Imagine you are part of a successful human landing mission on Mars in 2036. Write a brief report back to Earth about your findings.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.1*

**8** Design your own Mars habitat.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.1*

**9** Write a true-or-false quiz about Mars.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.2*

**10** Add the Wright brothers to the index with the correct page reference.

*Common Core State Standards (Reading: Informational text): RI.4.5*

- 2014: The MAVEN Orbiter begins its mission to study Mars's upper atmosphere.
- 2016: The Trace Gas Orbiter joins MAVEN.
- 2018: The Insight lander sets down on Mars.
- 2021: The Perseverance rover carrying Ingenuity sets down on Mars.
- 2022: Artemis 1, the first step in getting humans to Mars, is launched (Artemis 2 is hoping to carry a crew aboard).
- 5 Answers will vary. Example answers:  
 crater: a large circular hole in the ground created by an explosion  
 elliptical: an elongated circle shape  
 minerals: solid, natural substances that exist in other substances
- 6 Answers will vary.
- 7 Answers will vary.
- 8 Answers will vary.
- 9 Answers will vary.
- 10 placed between "Water on Mars" and "year length"; page 38

## Answers

1 Answers will vary.

2 From left to right: Mercury, Venus, Earth, (Mars), Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus

3 Answers will vary. Example answers: Earth sits between Venus and Mars in the solar system and is 93 million miles from the Sun; Earth is twice the size of Mars; Earth is made of land, rivers, lakes, and oceans; 70% of Earth is water; A day on Earth lasts for 23 hours and 56 minutes; A year on Earth lasts for 365 days; It takes one year for Earth to orbit the Sun.

4 Answers will vary. Example answers:

1543: The idea that the Sun is at the center of the universe is published.  
1609: Galileo sees Mars through a telescope.  
1659: Huygens discovers that Mars has a 24-hour day.  
1877: The first map of Mars is created.  
1995: The first close-up pictures of Mars are taken from Mariner 4.  
1969: Better pictures of Mars are captured by Mariner 6 and 7.  
1971: Mariner 9 orbits Mars for a year.  
1976: Viking 1 and 2 land on the surface of Mars.  
1997: The orbiter Mars Global Surveyor orbits Mars for a decade.  
1997: Sojourner lands on Mars.  
2001: The orbiter Mars Odyssey begins orbiting Mars.  
2003: The orbiter Mars Express begins orbiting Mars.  
2004: Twin rovers Spirit and Opportunity land on Mars.  
2006: The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter begins orbiting Mars.  
2008: The first stationary lander touches down on Mars.  
2012: The Curiosity rover lands on Mars.