

Mars: The Red Planet Answers

1. Tick the correct response.

We cannot breathe on Mars because the atmosphere does not have enough:

oxygen

2. Find and copy the correct word to complete the sentence.

Mars is named after the **Roman** god of **war**.

3. Which of these are reasons why Mars is a good place to explore?

Mars gets enough sunlight to use solar power.

There is a little water in the soil on Mars.

4. How many moons does Mars have and what are their names?

Mars has two moons named Phobos and Deimos.

5. What is a day called on Mars and how long is it?

A day on Mars is called a 'sol' and it is 24 hours and 37 minutes long.

6. Find and copy one **caption** from the text.

Accept either:

- **A 'true colour' photograph of Mars taken by the OSIRIS instrument on the European Space Agency (ESA) Rosetta spacecraft in February 2007.**
- **A self-portrait taken by NASA's Curiosity rover.**

7. Why does it seem odd at first that NASA has chosen to explore Mars and not Venus?

Accept any correct explanation that states that Venus is closer to Earth than Mars. For example, it seems odd at first that NASA would travel to Mars first because Mars is not the closest planet to Earth.

8. Why do you think the author has put the facts about Mars' size and atmosphere into a 'quick facts' box?

Accept responses relating to the fact that the author has made the information:

- **more digestible/easier to read;**
- **easier to find quickly;**
- **more interesting to look at.**