

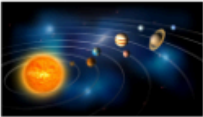
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Crash Course Astronomy #15: Mars

Name: _____ Date: _____

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1. Mars is the _____ planet from the Sun and the outermost of the terrestrial planets.
2. The red color of Mars comes from iron-rich dust that has _____, forming rust.
3. Much of Mars' surface is made of _____ rock called basalt.
4. The northern hemisphere of Mars is mostly smooth plains, while the southern is _____ and hilly.
5. The Tharsis bulge is a huge plateau that contains the solar system's largest volcano, called _____.
6. Valles Marineris is a giant _____ on Mars that is much longer and wider than the Grand Canyon.
7. Mars' polar ice caps are primarily made of water ice, but in the winter, they get a seasonal coating of _____.
8. The Martian atmosphere is thin and composed mostly of _____.
9. Mars' winds form crescent-shaped sand dunes called _____ dunes.
10. Towering vortexes of wind on Mars, similar to tornadoes, are called _____.
11. In the spring, frozen carbon dioxide thaws on cliffs, triggering dramatic _____.
12. Mars has two small moons named _____ and Phobos.
13. Phobos orbits faster than Mars rotates, so from the surface it appears to rise in the _____ and set in the east.
14. Billions of years ago, Mars lost its magnetic field, leaving its atmosphere vulnerable to the _____.
15. Underground lava tubes on Mars may one day be used as protective _____ for human explorers.

Crash Course Astronomy #15: Mars KEY

1. Mars is the **fourth** planet from the Sun and the outermost of the terrestrial planets.
2. The red color of Mars comes from iron-rich dust that has **oxidized**, forming rust.
3. Much of Mars' surface is made of **volcanic** rock called basalt.
4. The northern hemisphere of Mars is mostly smooth plains, while the southern is **cratered** and hilly.
5. The Tharsis bulge is a huge plateau that contains the solar system's largest volcano, called **Olympus Mons**.
6. Valles Marineris is a giant **canyon** on Mars that is much longer and wider than the Grand Canyon.
7. Mars' polar ice caps are primarily made of water ice, but in the winter, they get a seasonal coating of **dry ice**.
8. The Martian atmosphere is thin and composed mostly of **carbon dioxide**.
9. Mars' winds form crescent-shaped sand dunes called **barchan** dunes.
10. Towering vortexes of wind on Mars, similar to tornadoes, are called **dust devils**.
11. In the spring, frozen carbon dioxide thaws on cliffs, triggering dramatic **avalanches**.
12. Mars has two small moons named **Deimos** and Phobos.
13. Phobos orbits **faster** than Mars rotates, so from the surface it appears to rise in the **west** and set in the east.
14. Billions of years ago, Mars lost its magnetic field, leaving its atmosphere vulnerable to the **solar wind**.
15. Underground lava tubes on Mars may one day be used as protective **shelters** for human explorers.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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