



Listening

- 1 INSTRUCTION: Listen and read. Use the words in the box below to fill in the blank spaces of the text as you hear.

Lead to - vast - requirements - proof - instruments - valley - dust -
wondered - degrees - satellite - plains - atmosphere - landscape

Life on Mars?

We think of Earth as the Blue Planet and Mars as the Red Planet when looking at _____ images of them. Although they look very different, our home planet and Mars are actually similar in many aspects. Like Earth, Mars has its own _____ and clouds. Both planets have large, ice-covered areas called polar caps. Mars's _____ includes features also found on Earth, such as mountains, _____, channels, craters, and even volcanoes.

Both planets have days that are about 24 hours long, and both spin on an invisible line called an axis. Each planet tilts to the side on its axis, at an angle of about 24 _____ in relation to the sun. This tilt is what causes the seasons to change on both planets.

Astronomers have always _____ if life exists beyond Earth. If it does, our neighbour Mars is the most likely place to find it. Mars is a planet of wild extremes. It has the largest _____ storms, the deepest and longest _____, the highest mountain, and the largest volcano known in our solar system! But to most planetary scientists, the biggest question is whether life is, or was, possible on the planet.

Advances in technology have allowed scientists to equip robots with a variety of tools, and then send them to explore Mars. These scientific _____ have been able to detect real _____ that life is possible there. For example, one of the fundamental _____ for life, the existence of some form of water, has been discovered in several areas of Mars. A _____ amount of ice is under the surface and also frozen in the polar caps year-round. In 2015, scientists confirmed that liquid water exists on Mars's surface. But will this finding _____ the discovery of life on the Red Planet? We're still waiting to find out.