



UNIT #4 – READING SECTION

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Life on Mars

Mars is the fourth planet from the sun. You can see Mars without a telescope, but you need a telescope to see its characteristics. Many years ago, people began looking at Mars with telescopes. They wondered if Mars ever had life.

In 1877, an Italian scientist, Giovanni Schiaparelli, saw strange lines on the surface of Mars and wrote about them. Some people read what Schiaparelli had written and thought the lines were canals. A canal is a waterway that's man made. They thought that Martians may have made them!

When telescopes got better, people forgot the canal idea. In 1965, the spacecraft *Mariner 4* flew by Mars and took photos. The photos showed that the surface looks like Earth's moon, with marks from rocks hitting it.

In 2012, the first Mars rover *Curiosity* landed on Mars. It sent data back to Earth. Since then, many other spacecraft have been sent to fly past, orbit, or land on Mars. We have learned a lot more about Mars. One recent discovery is exciting. For years, scientists looked for liquid water on Mars. They found small amounts of ice. But in 2018, they discovered an underground lake, 19 km (12 mi.) long. Scientists think there may be other similar lakes on Mars.

Scientists have not found life on Mars yet. But some think that where there is water, there may be life, or life may have been there many years ago. In 2018, the *InSight* mission landed on Mars. Its aim is to study deep down below the surface of Mars. It will investigate the structure of the planet and look for earthquakes—or rather marsquakes! Scientists hope to learn about the origins of Mars, as well as other planets in the solar system.



2 Check T for True and F for False.

1. Mars has canals that are like rivers.
2. In 1877, *Mariner 4* flew by Mars and took photos.
3. Scientists have discovered a lake on the surface of Mars.
4. Scientists don't know if there was ever life on Mars.

☐ T

☐ F

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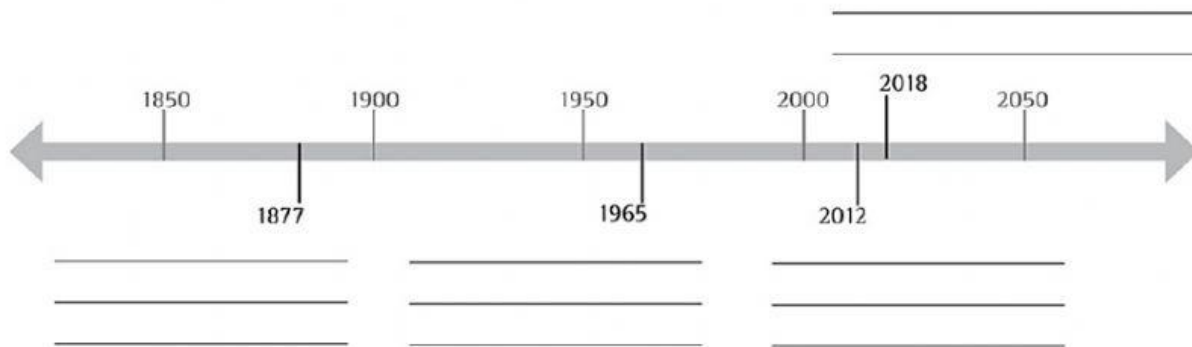


3 Read and write.

1. You can see Mars without a _____.
2. People thought that they saw _____
on Mars, but they were wrong.
3. The surface of Mars has marks from falling rocks like Earth's _____.
4. It's possible that there was _____ on Mars many years ago.



4 Complete the chart. Use information from Activity 1.



5 Read and answer. Use information from Activity 1.

1. What are canals? _____
2. Mars does not have canals. What helped people learn this?

3. Why does the land on Mars look like Earth's moon?

4. What exciting discovery have scientists made recently?
