

Name: _____

Date: _____

Facts about Mars



- Mars was named after the Roman god of war, it is also described as the "Red Planet" because it is covered with rust-like dust.
- Mars is the fourth planet from the sun.
- It is the second smallest planet in the Solar System.

- Has two moons.
- Mars looks a lot like our home, though instead of blue oceans and green land, Mars is home to an ever present red tint. This is due to a mineral called iron oxide that is very common on the planet's surface.
- Mars has many massive volcanoes and is home to Olympus Mons, the largest volcano in our solar system, it stands 21km high and is 600km across the base.
- Mars has seasons like Earth too. These seasons are much longer than Earth seasons because Mars is so much farther from the sun.
- Mars experiences violent dust storms which continually change its surface.
- Mars has a very thin atmosphere made mostly of carbon dioxide. It is not thick enough to trap the sun's heat like Venus, so the planet is very cold. Temperatures range from -120 Degrees Celsius on winter nights to 25 Degrees Celsius in the summer.



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Read each question.

Then, write your answer.

1. Because Mars has rust- like dust it is also known as?

2. What is Mars atmosphere mostly made up of?

3. Name the mineral that causes Mars to have an ever present red tint.

4. What is the name of the Solar System largest volcano?

5. Why do seasons last longer on Mars?

6. Mars is the _____ smallest planet in the Solar System.

Circle your answer.

a. second

b. first

b. fourth