DAILY Warm-Up 11

Name _____ Date _____

MISSION TO MARS

For years, there has been speculation about whether or not there is life on Mars. Mars has always been an intriguing planet to humans. For centuries, stories have been told and retold about Martians invading the earth. Does life really exist on Mars? A group of scientists have been working to find out.

One of the latest space probes to travel to Mars was the *Odyssey* sent by NASA, the U.S. space agency. The *Odyssey* traveled through space for about seven months before it reached the orbit of Mars. It orbited about 200 miles from Mars' surface. The most important task for the *Odyssey* is to identify signs of water. Water means that there are possible signs of life.

There are many important instruments on the *Odyssey*. The Gamma ray spectrometer is an instrument that is used to detect oxygen and carbon on the surface of Mars. The solar array collects energy from the sun. This is how the *Odyssey* gets its power. The cameras are used to orient the *Odyssey*. Communication to earth is possible through the antenna. The Martian radiation environment experiment tests levels of radiation. And finally, the imaging system locates minerals on Mars' surface.

Because of the *Odyssey*, scientists have gained valuable information about the planet Mars.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which instrument allows the *Odyssey* able to communicate with earth?
   a. radiation environment experiment
   b. gamma ray spectrometer
   c. imaging system
   d. antenna
2. What is the meaning of the word *orient* as used in this passage?
   a. arrange
   b. adjust
   c. modify
   d. opposite
3. What is the purpose of the third paragraph?
   a. to explain how the *Odyssey* was developed
   b. to explain how the animals survive on other planets
   c. to explain how scientists designed the *Odyssey*
   d. to explain the instruments on the *Odyssey*
4. Where would you read to find out about the travels and tasks of the *Odyssey*?
   a. first paragraph
   b. end of the third paragraph
   c. second paragraph
   d. end of the second paragraph