

MISSION TO MARS

Read the text and choose the correct word.

The Americans are keen to win the race (0)_____ send human beings to Mars. In 1992, the new boss of NASA, Dan Goldin, called on the American people to be the first to send explorers to (1)_____ planet in the solar system. He reminded them (2)_____ the symbolic gift carried to the moon and back by the Apollo 11 mission. It bears (3)_____ message intended for the crew of the first spaceship to visit Mars. Goldin thinks (4)_____ is time to begin the preparations (5)_____ this historic journey. His speech echoed the words of the President, (6)_____ promised that in 2019, 50 years after Neil Armstrong (7)_____ the first man to set foot on the Moon, the first astronaut (8)_____ stand on Mars. (9)_____ the end of the twentieth century, various unmanned spaceships will (10)_____ thoroughly investigated the surface of the planet. But, however clever a robot (11)_____ be, it cannot match the type of information (12)_____ can be gained from direct human experience. The first geologist on the moon, Harrison Schmitt, was (13)_____ of interpreting the story of the landscape on the spot. (14)_____ humans walk on the red deserts of Mars, we will not be able to determine the history of this frozen world (15)_____ any detail.

