

## INFORMATION TRANSFER PRACTICE

### Theme: Science and Technology

Read the text below and answer questions 1 - 8.

The Romans named the planet Mars after their god of war. While Earth is the third planet from the sun, Mars is the fourth. Mars is the second smallest planet in the solar system after Mercury. Mars' diameter is only 6,779 km while Earth's diameter is 12,742 km.

The planet is a dusty, cold, desert world and has very thin atmosphere. We have sent rovers or robotic explorers to roam Mars. These rovers found plenty of evidence that billions of years ago the planet was much wetter and warmer. It also had a thicker atmosphere.



Similar to Earth, the planet has seasons, polar ice caps, weather, canyons and extinct volcanoes. Mars has two moons named Phobos and Deimos. Another planet that has more than one moon is the dwarf planet Pluto. It has five moons and they are named Charon, Hydra, Nix, Kerberos and Styx. While planet Jupiter is known as a 'gas giant', Mars is known as the Red Planet. This is because the iron minerals in Martian Soil oxidise, or rust, causing the soil and atmosphere to look red. The Martian atmosphere is mostly made up of carbon dioxide. It also has small amounts of argon, nitrogen, oxygen and water vapour.

The gravity on Mars is a third of Earth's gravity. Therefore you will weigh less on Mars than on Earth. The planet orbits the Sun once every 1.88 Earth years. This is much longer compared to Venus which has an orbital period of 0.615 Earth years.

Complete the table below. Choose no more than three words and/or a number from the text for each answer.

| A Planet                                              |   |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---|--|
| Name                                                  | 1 |  |
| The planet was named by Romans with the name of their | 2 |  |
| Diameter                                              | 3 |  |
| Name of moons                                         | 4 |  |
|                                                       | 5 |  |
| Also known as                                         | 6 |  |
| Atmosphere mostly made of                             | 7 |  |
| Orbital period                                        | 8 |  |