

# Your Mission MARS DIARY

## ACTIVITY 1.3 MARS QUIZ

From the Chapter One of the Mission Mars Diary  
[marsdiary.org/activities/mars-quiz](http://marsdiary.org/activities/mars-quiz)

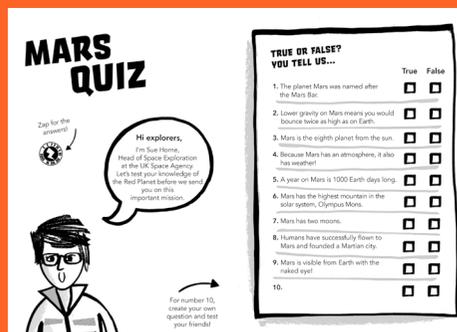
## LEARNING LEVEL

KS2, P5-7, Y4-6

## CURRICULUM LINKS & DIFFERENTIATION IDEAS

View detailed curriculum links for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales in the Teacher Toolkit, plus differentiation ideas for your region and year level.

[marsdiary.org/resources/#teacher-toolkit](http://marsdiary.org/resources/#teacher-toolkit)



## Resources Required

- Smartphone or device for Zap code (optional – see Useful Links)
- Mars Fact Cards

## Solutions to the Quiz

1. False; 2. True; 3. False; 4. True; 5. False; 6. True; 7. True; 8. False; 9. True

## Background to this Activity

The Martian space quiz is a fun way to find out more about Mars for students and teachers.

1. The Planet Mars was named after the Mars Bar – False, Mars was named after the Roman god of war.
2. Lower gravity on Mars means you would bounce twice as high as on Earth – True, gravity on Mars is 62% lower than on Earth. This means a kilo of apples on Earth would only weigh 38 grams on Mars!
3. Mars is the ninth planet from the sun – False, the order of the planets in our solar system is Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune.
4. Because Mars has an atmosphere, it also has weather! – True, like Earth, Mars has seasons, polar ice caps, volcanoes, canyons and weather, but its atmosphere is too thin for liquid water to exist for long on the surface.
5. A year on Mars is 1000 Earth days long – False, one year on Mars is 687 Earth days.
6. Mars has the highest mountain in the solar system, Olympus Mons – True, Olympus Mons is 25 km high.
7. Mars has two moons – True, Mars's moons are called Phobos and Deimos.
8. Humans have successfully flown to Mars and founded a Martian city – False, humans are yet to travel to Mars. All spacecraft that has gone to Mars has been unmanned.

9. Of the 44 missions to Mars, only 18 have been successful – True, the first close-up photographs of Mars were taken by Mariner 4 in 1965. On 20 July 1976, NASA's Viking spacecraft was the first to land on Mars. Since then, many other missions to the Red Planet have been launched, however only 18 in total have been successful.

## Running the Activity

The Mars Quiz is a fun way to find out more about Mars for students and teachers. Ideally this is done as a group activity with students calling out 'true' or 'false' while the teacher gives the correct answer if needed. It is interactive and entertaining as well as imparting basic facts about Mars.

Children can use the Mars Fact Cards (see Useful Links) to help them research and answer the questions. They could trade tokens for a fact card to help them on specific questions, or they could be allowed to have their own fact cards to use as support (Lower Key Stage 2 perhaps).

Use of mini-whiteboards for instant feedback, with T on one side and F on the other, would make this more active for children and provide teachers with instant feedback. This could also be done as a stand up for true, sit down for false activity – giving the same overview to teachers.

When children have created their own questions, these can be shared as a class, perhaps as a separate quiz, or verbally as a plenary to the activity.

## Questions for the Class

- Why is research on Mars important to us?
- What reasons could missions to Mars be deemed 'unsuccessful'?
- What do you think the weather would be like on Mars? Why?

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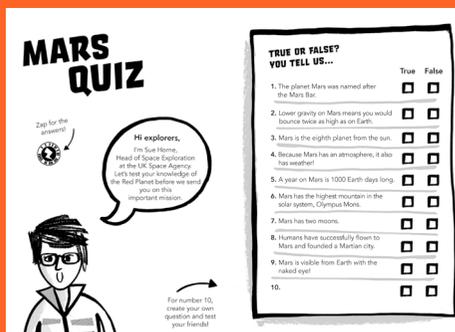
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## Additional Challenges / Extension Activities

### Non Chronological Report

Children can pick a fact of their choosing to research further. This could be given as an extension to the lesson (additional task) or as a follow-up activity at home (home learning).

Children create a non-chronological report on their chosen fact/question, applying research skills and use of non-fiction texts to create this report. Language could be formal or informal (depending on need of the class or personal choice) and could contain images and diagrams to support. This would give children a good cross-curricular writing site of application.

The most straight-forward themes to research would be:

Research why Mars and its moons were given their names by the Ancient Romans.

Research how high the mountains on Earth are. How much higher is Olympus Mons? Draw a to-scale diagram of the different mountains.

Research all the missions to Mars and find out which ones were successful

## Ideas for Differentiation

### Lower:

Use the fact cards to support. Children can then match the facts to the correct questions – supporting comprehension and understanding.

### Upper:

Can children research a question of their choice? Set children the challenge of 'prove it' – and get them to research and prove that their favourite question is true/false. This will support reasoning aspects of Maths, as well as justifying opinions with evidence.

## Useful Links

Zappar Content: Download or view the Zappar content for this activity on its webpage (URL to the left) or access it via the Zap.

Mars Fact Cards: View or download these on the activity webpage (URL to the left)

NASA gallery of Olympus Mons: <https://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/gallery/atlas/olympus-mons.html>

Clip about origins and future of Mars's moons: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pw0IZg7\\_4mo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pw0IZg7_4mo)

Chart of Mars exploration history: <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars-exploration/timeline/>

**ZAP!** Students can independently access multimedia resources using the Zappar mobile/tablet app. See Zappar instructions at the link below and note that the mobile/tablet will need to be on a WIFI connection: [marsdiary.org/resources/#teacher-toolkit](http://marsdiary.org/resources/#teacher-toolkit)

If you don't have access to the internet in the classroom, all Zap code content is available to download on the activity's web page (see link to the left) as a PowerPoint presentation or as bundles of images.



GET ZAPPAR  
ZAP THE CODE



Find more great space-themed STEM resources at <https://www.stem.org.uk/esero>