

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Mars

## Reading Comprehension



Read the text and answer the questions.

Mars is the fourth planet from the sun and the second smallest planet in the solar system. Named after the Roman god of war, it is often called the 'Red Planet' because the iron oxide (rust) on its surface gives it a reddish appearance. Mars has a thin atmosphere and a very cold climate. Its average temperature is around  $-80$  degrees Fahrenheit ( $-62$  degrees Celsius). It also has the largest volcano and the deepest, longest canyon in the solar system. For many years, scientists have been interested in Mars because they believe it may have once had conditions that could support life. They have sent numerous spacecraft to study the planet and search for signs of water and past life. In 2012, the Curiosity rover landed on Mars and discovered evidence of liquid water in the past. In recent years, there has been a lot of discussion about sending humans to Mars. Private companies like SpaceX and government space agencies like NASA are working on plans to send astronauts to the Red Planet. However, the journey to Mars would be long and dangerous, and there are still many challenges to overcome before humans can live there permanently. Many people are excited about the possibility of exploring Mars in the future. It remains one of the most fascinating and mysterious planets in our solar system.

1 Why have scientists been interested in studying Mars for many years?

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Why is Mars often referred to as the 'Red Planet'?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 Why do many people find the idea of exploring Mars exciting?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 What did the Curiosity rover discover on Mars in 2012?

\_\_\_\_\_