

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

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

# Mars

**Read the fact file on Mars and discuss the questions below.**

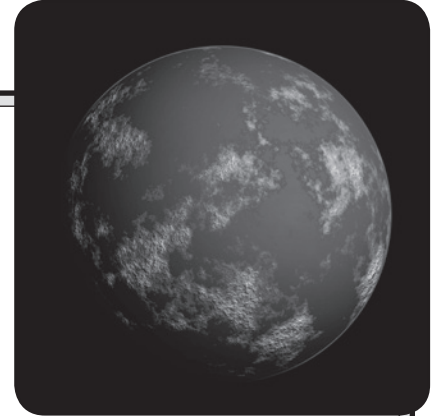
Mars is known as the Red Planet because of the colour of the rocks on its surface. It is smaller than Earth.

Mars is a cold planet. The temperature can drop far lower than the coldest place on Earth. Due to large differences in temperature, vast dust storms sometimes occur on Mars – these can cover almost the entire planet!

Although Mars is not a pleasant place to live, it is believed that it was once much more like Earth. There is evidence that water once existed on the surface of Mars. It is likely that there were rivers, large lakes or even oceans on Mars. There may also be ice hidden below the surface and in polar caps.

The Martian atmosphere is quite different from that of Earth – there is almost no oxygen. Any human missions to Mars will have to deal with dangerous radiation from the sun.

It would take about 9 months to travel from Earth to Mars.



How is Mars different from Earth?

If it takes 9 months to get to Mars, what personal qualities would an astronaut need to survive the journey?

How would an astronaut survive on Mars? What special kit might be needed?

