

PLANET MARS

CUBE CODE

What is NOT known as a planet?

What is the longest season on Mars?

What is the atmosphere of Mars composed of?

What is the biggest crater in the Solar System?

How many moons does Mars have?

What is the year the Mariner 4 was launched by the United States MINUS 1960.

The FIRST number of the lock is the year Galileo first observed Mars through a telescope MINUS 1601.

The THIRD number of the lock is the number of days one Martian revolution takes MINUS 681.

Like Earth, Mars has two moons. Actually, it has two moons, called Phobos and Deimos.

Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color or shade the coin that corresponds to the question. If the statement is false, cross out that coin value. When you are finished add the TOTAL of ALL TRUE coin values. The code has been provided for you. If the total is 625, a 6 in the first box, the 2 in the second box and so on.

STATION 2:

First, number ALL the paragraphs on your reading passage. Then, read each statement below and determine which paragraph NUMBER the statement can be found in. Lastly, eliminate ANY answer where the answer was found in an EVEN numbered paragraph, leaving only ODD numbers as your final code (in the order of questions). Paragraph numbers MAY be used more than one time or not at all.

STATION 3:

A. Mars' egg-shaped orbit accounts for the difference in season lengths.

B. NASA's first successful touch down on the surface of Mars was with the Apollo III.

C. The reddish Martian soil is called regolith.

D. Mars was named after the Roman god of war.

E. The surface of Mars is dry and full of rocks.

PLANET MARS

Mars is the fourth planet from the sun in the Solar System. It is known as the Red Planet because iron minerals found in the soil and atmosphere make it appear red. The color comes from rusting rocks (oxidation). This reddish Martian soil is called regolith. The planet looks red during a storm when the dust releases into the atmosphere. Mars can be easily seen from Earth without a telescope and has been observed since ancient times. It was named after the Roman god of war.

Mars is the planet where humans have searched for life the most. Galileo first observed Mars through a telescope in 1610. The planet was formed about 4.5 billion years ago when gravity caused gas and dust to swirl and collect, forming a planet.

the second planet from the sun in the Solar System.

Galileo first observed Mars through a telescope in 1610.

The face of Mars, inactive volcanoes and mountains can be found on the planet.

Eliminate

4 DIGIT CODE

THINK TANK

STATION 1:

Use your reading passage or deductive reasoning skills to determine the missing words in the paragraph below. Each missing word has a corresponding NUMBER. The 4-digit code will be the NUMBER of each missing word in the same order in which they appear in the paragraph.

STATION 2:

First, number ALL the paragraphs on your reading passage. Then, read each statement below and determine which paragraph NUMBER the statement can be found in. Lastly, eliminate ANY answer where the answer was found in an ODD numbered paragraph, leaving only EVEN numbers as your final code (in the order of questions). Paragraph numbers MAY be used more than one time or not at all.

STATION 3:

Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color or shade the coin that corresponds with that question. If the statement is false, cross out that coin value. When you are finished add the TOTAL of ALL TRUE coin values. One digit of the code has been provided for you. If the total is 625, a 6 would go in the first box, the 2 in the second box and so on.

STATION 4:

Use your reading passage to determine the combination to the 4-digit lock. You're going to have to use your critical thinking skills and do a tiny bit of math. Pay attention because the "clues" below are NOT in order.

STATION 5:

Answer each multiple choice question below. Then, count the number of times you used each letter answer (ABCD) to reveal your 4 digit code. Answer options may be used more than once or not at all. If a letter option is not used, simply put a zero in the box.

STATION 6:

Reread the passage and write the main idea in your own words. Then, add TWO supporting details that back up your main idea or topic sentence.

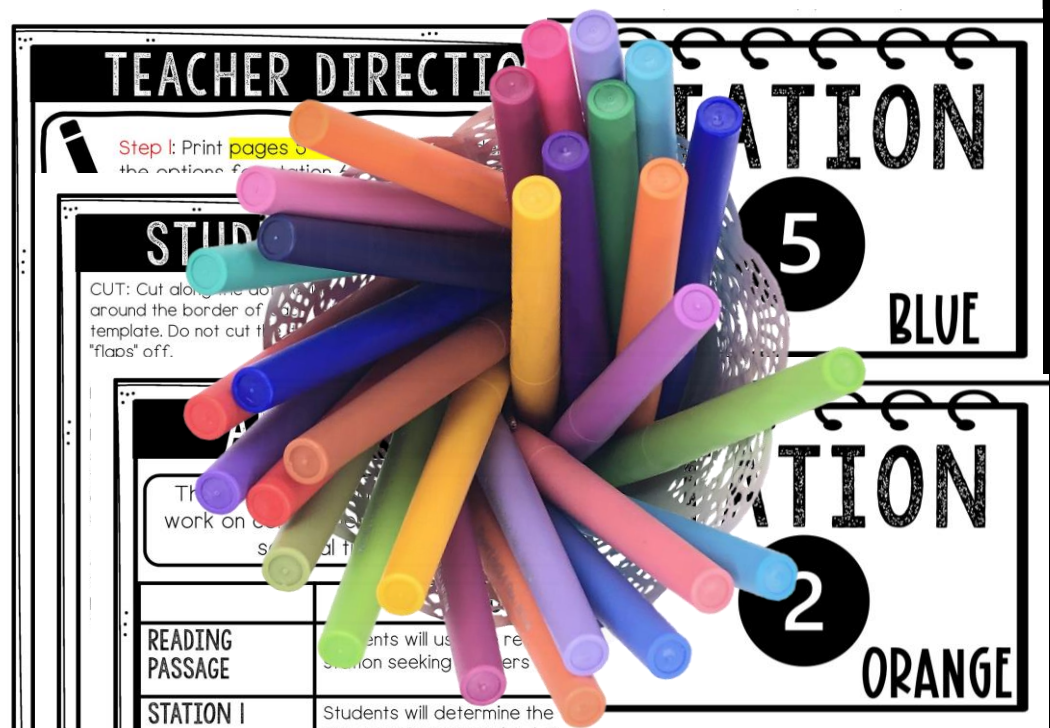
STATION

1

RED

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- READING PASSAGE
- 6 STATIONS
- TEACHER GUIDE
- STATION CARDS
- ANSWER KEY
- STUDENT DIRECTIONS
- TEXT MARKING OPTION
- ALTERNATE STATION
- ASSEMBLY TIPS



6 STATIONS

STATION 1:

Use your reading passage or deductive reasoning to determine the missing words in the paragraph below. The missing word has a corresponding NUMBER. The 4-digit code will be the NUMBER of each missing word in the same order in which they appear in the paragraph.

1	Valles	4	three	7	Phobos
2	largest	5	nine	8	Deimos
3	Mons	6	seven	9	smallest

Like Earth, Mars has a moon. Actually, it has two moons: Phobos and Deimos. Phobos is the larger of the two. Deimos is the smaller. Both moons are thought to be captured asteroids. They have irregular shapes and are covered in craters. Mars has a thin atmosphere made mostly of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and argon. On the surface of Mars, there are inactive volcanoes and mountains.

STATION

1

RED

STATION 6:

Reread the passage and write the main idea in your own words. Then, add TWO supporting details that back up your main idea or topic sentence.

MAIN IDEA

STATION

6

SUPPORTING DETAIL #2

STATION 4:

Use your reading passage to determine the combination to the 4-digit lock. You're going to have to use your critical thinking skills and do a tiny bit of math. Pay attention because the "clues" below are NOT in order.

The LAST number of the lock is the number of minutes it takes sunlight to reach Mars MINUS 9.

The SECOND number of the lock is

STATION

4

GREEN

4 DIGIT CODE

STATION 5:

Answer each multiple choice question below. Then, count the number of times you used each letter answer (ABCD) to reveal your 4 digit code. Answer options may be used more than once or not at all. If a letter option is not used, put a zero in the box.

Which planet is NOT known as a terrestrial planet?

- A. Mars
- B. Earth
- C. Mercury
- D. Saturn

What is the reddish Martian soil known as?

- A. Monolith
- B. Regolith

How many seasons does Mars have?

- A. 0
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. 6

What is the largest volcano on Mars?

- A. Olympus Mons
- B. Mariana Trench
- C. Grand Canyon
- D. Valles Marineris

- A. Nitrogen
- B. Carbon dioxide
- C. Argon
- D. All of the above

STATION

5

BLUE

A B C D

STATION 3:

Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color or shade the coin that corresponds to the statement. If the statement is false, do not color or shade the coin. One coin has been colored to show the first digit of the code.

STATION

3

YELLOW

A
75

B
25

C
50

D
100

- C. The reddish Martian soil is called regolith.
- D. Mars was named after the Roman god of war.
- E. The surface of Mars is very dry and full of rocks.
- F. Mars is the second planet from the sun in the Solar System.
- G. Copernicus first observed Mars through his telescope in 1621.
- H. On the surface of Mars, there are active volcanoes and mountains.

4 DIGIT CODE

STATION 2:

First, number ALL the paragraphs on your reading passage. Then, read each statement below and determine which paragraph NUMBER the statement can be found in. Lastly, eliminate ANY answer where the answer was found in an EVEN numbered paragraph, leaving only ODD numbers as your final answer. The final answer is the 4-digit code.

STATION

2

ORANGE

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

- A. Mars is the second planet from the sun in the Solar System.
- B. Mars is the fourth terrestrial planet, along with Mercury, Venus, and Earth.
- C. The reddish Martian soil is called regolith.
- D. Mars was named after the Roman god of war.
- E. The surface of Mars is very dry and full of rocks.
- F. Mars is the second planet from the sun in the Solar System.
- G. Copernicus first observed Mars through his telescope in 1621.
- H. On the surface of Mars, there are active volcanoes and mountains.

ELIMINATE ALL EVEN NUMBERS TO DETERMINE THE FINAL CODE.

4 DIGIT CODE



SAMPLE CUBE



STATIONS

STATION 1	Students will determine the missing words in the paragraph to reveal a 4 digit code.
STATION 2	Students will number the paragraphs and browse the passage to determine where the answers can be found (paragraph number). After eliminating EVEN numbers, a 4 digit code will be revealed.
STATION 3	Students will read each statement and determine if it is true or false. They will then ADD all TRUE values to find the 4 digit code.
STATION 4	Students will do some basic math here, read the passage to find the answers and then determine the 4 digit code.
STATION 5	Students will answer 6 multiple choice questions which lead them to a 4 digit code based on the number of times they used each "answer".
STATION 6	Option 1: Main idea writing activity Option 2: Color and add topic
TEXT MARKING	OPTIONAL: A color code chart is included in case you want students to mark the text citing evidence of where they found their answers.

**STUDENTS WILL
USE THE SAME
READING
PASSAGE AT
EACH STATION
SEEKING
ANSWERS AND
TEXT EVIDENCE.**

HOW IT WORKS



ENGAGING READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE!

1

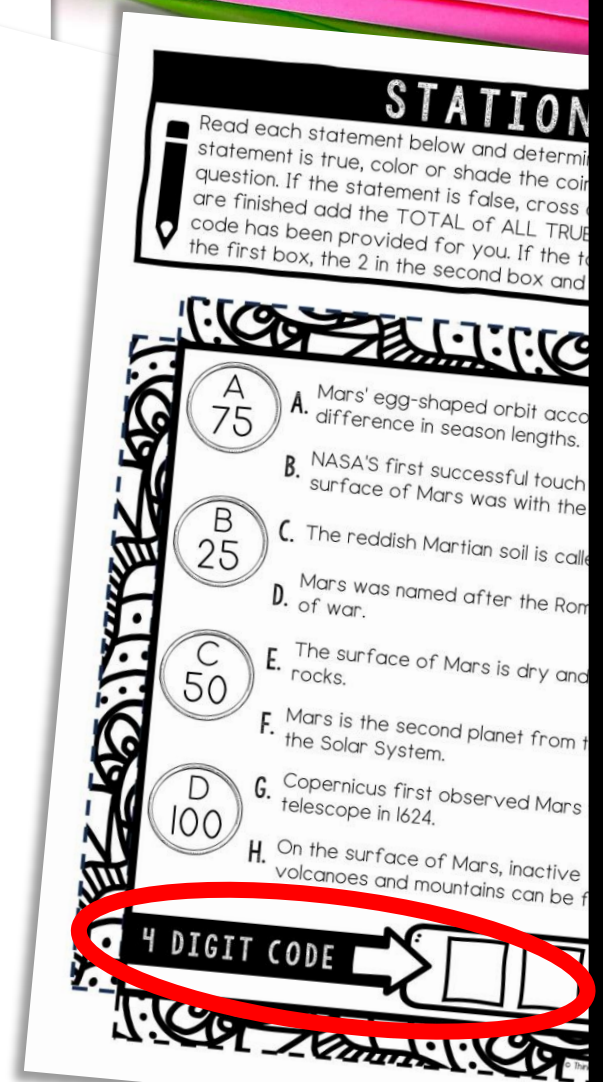
Students work individually (or in pairs) and visit 6 stations, grabbing one side of their cube at each station.

2

Students will answer the questions (found directly in the passage) on their cube sheet before assembly. Students will revisit their reading passage at EACH station!

3

Students will reveal 4-digit codes to move on to the next station. When they finish all stations, they can color and assemble their cube.



STATION

Read each statement below and determine if the statement is true, color or shade the corresponding question. If the statement is false, cross it out. When you are finished add the TOTAL of ALL TRUE statements. A code has been provided for you. If the total is 75, the 7 in the first box, the 5 in the second box and so on.

A 75

A. Mars' egg-shaped orbit accounts for the difference in season lengths.

B 25

B. NASA's first successful touch-down on the surface of Mars was with the Mars rover.

C 50

C. The reddish Martian soil is called rust.

D 100

D. Mars was named after the Roman god of war.

E. The surface of Mars is dry and rocky.

F. Mars is the second planet from the Sun in the Solar System.

G. Copernicus first observed Mars with his telescope in 1624.

H. On the surface of Mars, inactive volcanoes and mountains can be found.

4 DIGIT CODE →

COMBINATION



Each Cube Code is a winning combination of:


- stations and movement
- close reading
- comprehension skills
- coloring and stress relief
- secret codes
- cut and paste
- citing evidence
- critical thinking

Everything a teacher dreams of wrapped up into one FUN and engaging activity!

BENEFITS



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

-  ANTICIPATORY SETS
-  UNIT REVIEW
-  EARLY FINISHERS
-  STATIONS
-  SUB PLANS
-  PARTNER WORK
-  ENRICHMENT

-  HANDS-ON
-  CROSS-CURRICULAR
-  HIGHLY ENGAGING

