

# PLANET MARS

## ESCAPE ROOM

A. Spring  
B. Winter  
C. Fall  
D. Summer

6 What is the atmosphere of Mars composed of?

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

How many times you used each letter answer (ABCD) to solve the 4-digit code and record it on your answer sheet.

2301	3201
J	N

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.

Once you determine the 4-digit code, decide if the code uses all EVEN #s, all ODD #s or a combination of both.

ALL EVEN	ALL ODD	COMBO
J	K	P

5	6	7	8	9
Mons	nine	seven	Phobos	Deimos
			smallest	

Like Earth, Mars has a moon. Actually, it has two moons shaped like potatoes, called Phobos and Deimos. Phobos goes around Mars --- times in one Martian day. Deimos is one of the --- moons in the Solar System and takes a little more than a day to go around the planet. Experts think that these moons may have once been asteroids. --- is closest to Mars and has deep grooves. Some experts think that Deimos could crash into Mars in 50 million years.

Mars has a very thin atmosphere made mostly of the gases carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and argon. On the surface of Mars, inactive volcanoes and mountains can be found. The highest mountain in the Solar System, named Olympus ---, is found on Mars and reaches almost 15 miles high.

Once you determine the 4-digit code, decide if the code uses all EVEN #s, all ODD #s or a combination of both.

ALL EVEN	ALL ODD	COMBO
B	M	

**STATION 2: PARAGRAPHS**

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. Paragraph numbers MAY be used more than one time or not at all. Use the directions below to reveal the 4-digit code and letter clue.

A A revolution around the sun, or a year, takes 687 days on Mars, equals almost two Earth years.

B On Mars, a 100-pound person would weigh just 38 pounds.

C Today, Mars exploration is a big part of NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

D The planet looks red during a storm when the dust is kicked up into the atmosphere.

**STATION 3: TRUE OR FALSE**

Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color the coin on YOUR answer sheet 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 to reveal your letter clue. 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.

A 75	B 25	C 100	D 50	E 100	F 50
------	------	-------	------	-------	------

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.

**PLANET MARS**

Mars is the fourth planet from the sun in the Solar System. It is the only planet in the Solar System to appear red. The color comes from iron minerals found in the soil and the atmosphere. The planet looks red because of iron oxides that are released into the atmosphere. Mars was first discovered by the Roman god of war.

Mars is the planet with the most polar ice caps. It was first observed through a telescope in 1610. Mars was named after the Roman god of war.

Mars is the planet with the most polar ice caps. It was first observed through a telescope in 1610. Mars was named after the Roman god of war.

Mars is the fourth terrestrial planet from the sun. It has a central core of iron and nickel. The Earth, Mars has a rocky surface and is full of rocks. Mars is the second smallest planet in the Solar System. It has the lowest surface temperature of any planet in the Solar System. Venus, a

**THINK TANK**

**STATIONS ACTIVITY**

# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ✓ READING PASSAGE
- ✓ 5 STATIONS
- ✓ TEACHER GUIDE
- ✓ ANSWER KEY
- ✓ STUDENT DIRECTIONS
- ✓ TEXT MARKING OPTION
- ✓ PROP SIGNS

## STATION 1: FILL IN THE BLANK

Use your reading passage to determine the missing words in the paragraph below. Each missing word has a corresponding NUMBER. The 4-digit code for this station will be the NUMBER for each missing word, in the same order in which they appear in the paragraph. Then, record the clue LETTER on your answer sheet.

## STATION 2: PARAGRAPHS

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. Paragraph numbers MAY be used more than one time or not at all. Follow the directions below to reveal the 4-digit code and letter clue.

## STATION 3: TRUE OR FALSE

Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color the coin on YOUR answer sheet 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 to reveal your letter clue. 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: COMBINATION

Use your reading passage to determine the combination to the 4-digit lock for this station. 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. There is room on your answer sheet to do the math.

## STATION 5: MULTIPLE CHOICE

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

## ANSWER RECORDING SHEET

Record your answers for each station on this sheet. Then, use the directions below to determine final 4-digit ALPHA code. Ex: HBDR

STATION CODES

LETTER CLUE

STATION 1	→	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	CODE
-----------	---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	------

A	B	C	D	E	F	
---	---	---	---	---	---	--

STATION 2	→	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	CODE
-----------	---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	------

# ENTER

1

2

3

## TEACHER DIRECTION

- 1 Print the reading passage found on [pages 5-6](#) for EACH (front and back).
- 2 Print the answer recording sheet on [page 12](#) for each student group of students.

RECAP: Print pages 5, 6, and 12 for students.

# STATION

# 5

# BLUE

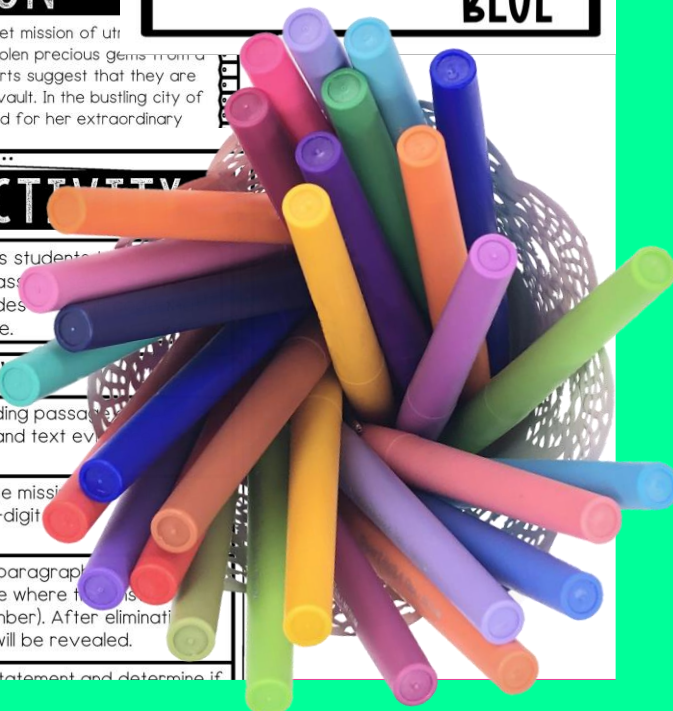
## THE MISSION

You have been assigned a top-secret mission of utmost importance. A notorious thief has stolen precious gems from a prominent lady, and intelligence reports suggest that they are hidden in a heavily guarded secret vault. In the bustling city of Oakville, Lady Victoria was renowned for her extraordinary

## ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

The reading passage in this packet allows students to practice their comprehension skills after reading the passage. Students will be searching for evidence. Each station includes a question that will reveal a letter clue.

	OVERVIEW
READING PASSAGE	Students will use the reading passage at each station seeking answers and text evidence.
STATION 1	Students will determine the missing word in the paragraph to reveal a 4-digit code.
STATION 2	Students will number the paragraphs in the reading passage to determine where the missing words can be found (paragraph number). After eliminating the incorrect numbers, a 4-digit code will be revealed.
STATION 3	Students will read each statement and determine if it is true or false.



# 5 STATIONS

## STATION 5: MULTIPLE CHOICE

Answer each multiple-choice question below. Then, count how many times you used each letter answer (ABCD) to reveal the code. Letters may be used more than once or not at all. If an option is not used, put an X in that box on your answer sheet.

1. Which planet is NOT a terrestrial planet? \_\_\_\_\_ is the reddish Mars-like planet.

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

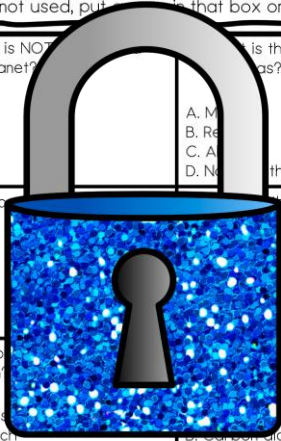
2. How many moons does Mars have? \_\_\_\_\_ is the longest satellite in the Solar System.

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

3. What is the biggest canyon in the Solar System? \_\_\_\_\_ is the deepest and widest canyon on Earth.

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

Count how many times you used each letter answer (A, B, C, D) to determine the 4-digit code and record it on your answer sheet.



## ANSWER RECORDING SHEET

Record your answers for each station on this sheet. Then, use the directions below to determine final 4-digit ALPHA code. Ex: HBDR

STATION	STATION CODES	LETTER
STATION 1	→ [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] CODE	
STATION 2	→ A B C D E F CODE	
STATION 3	→ A 75 B 25 C 50 D 100 E 100 F 75 G 50 H 25 CODE	
STATION 4	→ [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] CODE	
STATION 5	→ 1 2 3 4 5 6 CODE	

Do your math in this area:

→ A# [ ] B# [ ] C# [ ] D# [ ]

## STATION 4: COMBINATION

Use your reading passage to determine the combination to the 4-digit lock for this station. 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. There is room on your answer sheet to do the math.

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

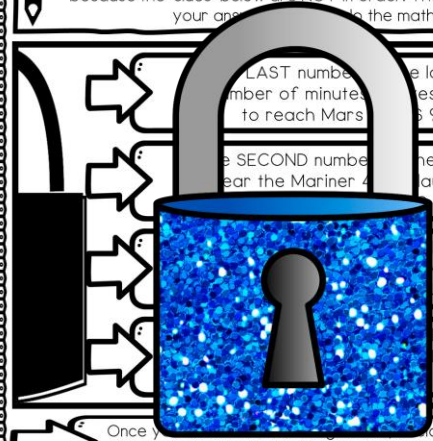
2. The SECOND number of the lock is the year the Mars lander was launched by NASA. \_\_\_\_\_ is 1960.

3. The third number of the lock is the number of Mars rovers. \_\_\_\_\_ is 160.

4. The fourth number of the lock is the number of Martian days. \_\_\_\_\_ is 681.

Once you determine the 4-digit code, decide if the code uses all EVEN #s, all ODD #s or a combination of both.

ALL EVEN    ALL ODD    COMBO



## STATION 1: FILL IN THE BLANKS

Use your reading passage to determine the missing word in each paragraph below. Each missing word has a corresponding NUMBER. The 4-digit code for this station will be the NUMBER of each missing word in the order in which they appear in the paragraph. The 4-digit code will be recorded on your answer sheet.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ three \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Valles Marineris 7. Phobos

2. \_\_\_\_\_ largest 5. \_\_\_\_\_ nine 8. Deimos

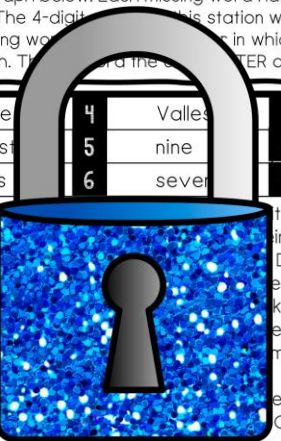
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Mons 6. \_\_\_\_\_ seven 9. \_\_\_\_\_ small

Like Earth, Mars has two moons, Phobos and Deimos. Phobos is the larger of the two and orbits Mars a little more than a day to go around. Deimos is the smaller of the two and may have only a few hours to go around Mars. Mars has deep grooves and valleys on its surface. Deimos could be a small moon that was captured by Mars. Mars has a thin atmosphere and is mostly composed of gases and dust. On the surface of Mars, inactive volcanoes and mountains can be found. The highest mountain in the Solar System, named Olympus Mons, is found on Mars and reaches almost 15 miles high.

Once you determine the 4-digit code, decide if the code uses all EVEN #s, all ODD #s or a combination of both.

ALL EVEN    ALL ODD    COMBO

B    H    M



## STATION 3: TRUE OR FALSE

Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color the coin on YOUR answer sheet that matches that question. If the statement is false, cross out that coin. Once you are finished coloring the coins, add up the TRUE coin values to determine the final total. One digit of the 4-digit code will be provided for you. Use the remaining digits to determine the final code.

A 75    A. Mars has a ring-shaped orbit around the sun for the first time in season lengths.

B 25    B. NASA's first successful touchdown on the surface of Mars was with the Mars Pathfinder.

C 50    C. The first successful Mars mission was the Mars Global Surveyor.

D 100    D. The first Mars rover was the Mars Exploration Rover.

E. Mars is the only planet in our solar system with a day longer than a year.

F. Mars is the only planet in our solar system with a day shorter than a year.

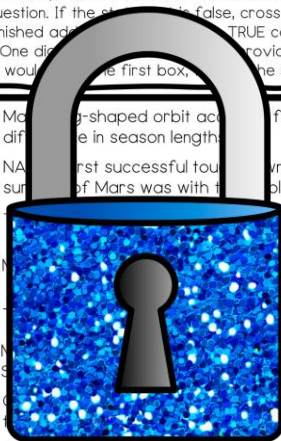
G. Mars is the only planet in our solar system with a day longer than a year.

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

After shading the coins on your answer sheet, add up the TRUE statements to get the final total.

325    350    3

G    D



## STATION 2: PARAGRAPHS

First, number ALL the paragraphs on your reading passage. Then, read each statement below and determine which paragraph NUMBER the statement is found in. Paragraph numbers MAY be used more than once or not at all. Follow the directions below to determine the 4-digit code and letter clue.

A. A revolution around the sun, or a year on Mars, is 687 days which equals almost two Earth years.

B. On Mars, a 100-lb person would weigh about 38 pounds.

C. Today, Mars rovers are used to study the planet's work (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

D. The planet lost its atmosphere and liquid water into the atmosphere and dust releases.

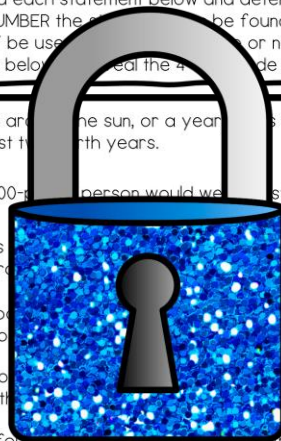
E. Compared to Earth, Mars is about twice as big as Earth.

F. Mars is the fourth largest planet, along with Mercury, Venus, and Earth.

ELIMINATE the highest and lowest used paragraph numbers and record the remaining 4-digit code on your answer sheet. Decide which paragraph number was NOT used as a CODE answer.

NO 6    NO 8    NO 3

L    C    W



# STATIONS

## ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

The reading passage in this packet allows students to work on comprehension skills after reading the passage several times searching for evidence. Each station includes a 4-digit code that will reveal a letter clue.


### OVERVIEW

READING PASSAGE	Students will use the reading passage at EACH station seeking answers and text evidence.
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 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 "ABCD" answer.
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. (This will increase completion time)

© Think Tank

**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 5 stations, answer questions, decipher a 4-digit code at each station and grab a "letter" clue for the final alpha code.
- 2 Students will answer the questions (found directly in the passage) on their own recording sheet. Students will have to revisit their reading passage several times at EACH station skimming for answers.

**STATION 1: FILL**

Use your reading passage to determine the missing word in each paragraph below. Each missing word is a NUMBER. The 4-digit code for this station is the sum of each missing word, in the same order as they appear in the paragraph. Then, record the clue letter.

1	three	4	Valles
2	largest	5	nine
3	Mons	6	seven

Like Earth, Mars has a moon. Acted upon by the sun, the potato-shaped like potatoes, called Phobos orbit around Mars \_\_\_\_ times in one Martian day. The \_\_\_\_ moons in the Solar System and a day to go around the planet. Experts believe that Mars may have once been covered by deep grooves. Some experts think that Mars in 50 million years.

Mars has a very thin atmosphere rich in gases carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and argon. Mars, inactive volcanoes and mountains. The highest mountain in the Solar System, now found on Mars and reaches almost 15 miles high.

Once you determine the 4-digit code, use all EVEN #s, all ODD #s or a combination of both.

ALL EVEN	ALL ODD
B	H

# BENEFITS

- ✓ STATIONS AND MOVEMENT
- ✓ CLOSE READING
- ✓ COMPREHENSION SKILLS
- ✓ SECRET CODES
- ✓ CITING EVIDENCE
- ✓ CRITICAL THINKING
- ✓ PRINT AND GO
- ✓ ACTIVE LEARNING
- ✓ CROSS-CURRICULAR
- ✓ HIGHLY ENGAGING
- ✓ NO LOCKS NEEDED
- ✓ NO SILLY ENVELOPES TO STUFF
- ✓ NO ODD SHAPES TO CUT OUT



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

# USE FOR:



**ANTICIPATORY SETS**



**UNIT REVIEW**



**EARLY FINISHERS**



**STATIONS**



**REWARD ACTIVITY**



**CENTERS**



**SUB PLANS**



**PARTNER WORK**



**ENRICHMENT**

