Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Planet Mars Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. What is the shape of the orbit of Mars around the Sun?

    a. Round
    b. Circular
    c. Elliptical
    d. Square

2. One year on Mars is about equal to what time period on Earth?

    a. One year
    b. Two years
    c. Three Years
    d. Four years

3. Earth and Mars

    a. Have days of about 24 hours
    b. Have seasons
    c. Both a. and b. above
    d. None of the above

4. When viewed through a telescope what color is Mars?

    a. Reddish-orange
    b. Blue
    c. Black
    d. Grey

5. The surface of Mars has

    a. Smooth plains
    b. Deep canyons
    c. High volcanoes
    d. All of the above

6. Impact craters are caused by

    a. Volcanic eruptions
    b. Meteors striking the surface
    c. Movement of tectonic plates
    d. None of the above

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Planet Mars Short Answer Questions

1. Using the information in the reading, draw the orbit of Mars around the Sun to scale on a piece of graph paper to illustrate the stretched elliptical shape.

2. Explain why Earth and Mars have seasons.

3. Why does the surface of Mars appear reddish-orange to observers on Earth?

4. Americans were once fascinated by the idea of Martians (creatures from Mars) invading Earth. Write your own sci-fi short story about aliens from Mars.

5. With your classmates, do some research and write a short report about the scientific evidence for water on Mars. Remember that water can be a solid, a liquid and a gas (water vapor).

6. Do some research and write a short report on one of the NASA rovers that has explored the surface of Mars: Sojourner, Spirit or Opportunity.

7. Would you like to work as a NASA engineer and design more advanced probes and rovers for Mars? Explain why or why not.

Planet Mars Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. c.
2. b.
3. c.
4. a.
5. d.
6. b.

Short Answer

1. Individual response

2. The tilt of the axis of Mars, like that of Earth, causes the amount of sunlight falling on certain parts of the planet to vary widely during the year. As a result, Mars, like Earth, has seasons.

3. Mars is called the Red Planet because it appears a reddish-orange or rust color from the iron in the soil on its surface.

4. Individual response

5. Individual response

6. Individual response

7. Individual response