

Mars: Fact or Fiction?



Facts are true information that explain how things work in nature and science. On the other hand, fiction is an enjoyable, make-believe story that isn't real. Often, writers will take facts and use their imagination to write interesting stories that aren't real. Science fiction writers will investigate facts about science and embellish them to write entertaining stories that are fictional.

Directions: Refer to the fact sheet below to help you write your own short science fiction story on page 2 about what a winter season on Mars would be like. Use the blank lines to research your own facts about Mars as you prepare to write.

Facts About Mars

1. Mars was named after the Roman god of war and agriculture. Ancient Romans believed that the god Mars protected warriors who fought for their communities and farmed during more peaceful times.
2. Mars has two moons called Deimos and Phobos.
3. Scientists have discovered evidence that suggests that Mars's atmosphere makes liquid water impossible. Researchers have detected water that is trapped under the surface.
4. You'd weigh far less on Mars than you would on Earth. If you were 140 lbs on Earth, you would weight about 54 lbs on Mars.
5. Mars is much colder than Earth, mostly because it's further away from the Sun.
6. It doesn't snow much on Mars during the winter. Instead, large ice caps made from dry ice form across the surface of the planet.
7. Mars may have harbored life in the distant past. Some scientists believe that life from Mars may have seeded Earth, or Earth may have seeded Mars.

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What would winter be like on Mars? Use your imagination with the information you learned in your studies about Mars. In the lines below, use scientific facts to embellish and write your story. Draw a picture to accompany your story, and share it with your family and friends.

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