

## INFORMATION ON MARS

**Directions** Imagine that you are a member of NASA and you have orders to fly into space. First you need to know some basic information about the solar system. Answer the questions you already know and then research the answers to the questions you do not know.

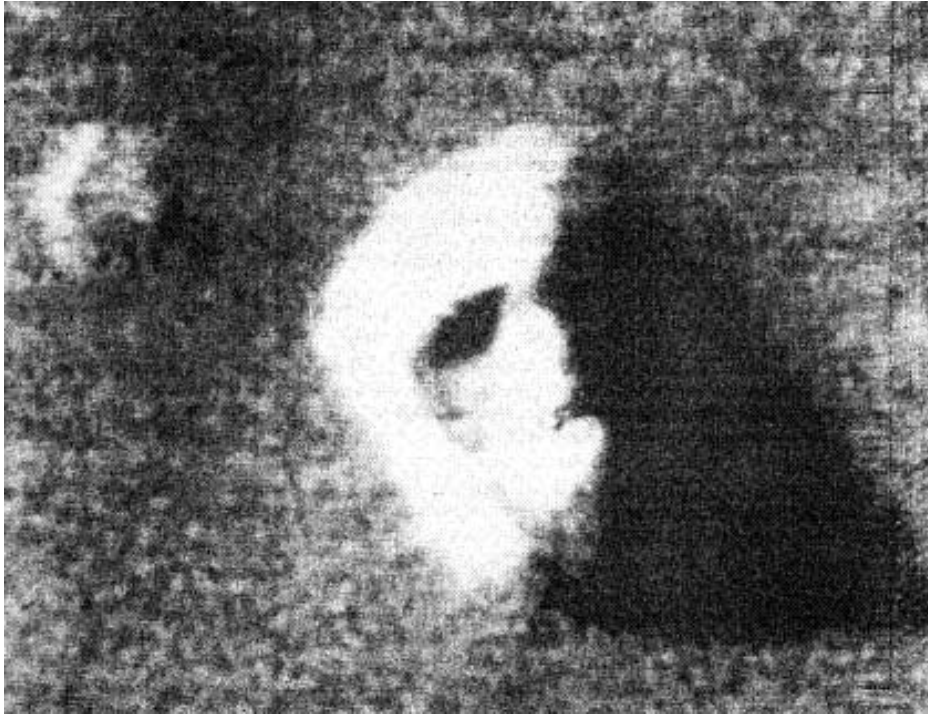
1. NASA is an acronym for \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Mars is at least \_\_\_\_\_ miles from Earth at its closest alignment.
3. The atmosphere of Mars is mostly \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The moons of Mars are named \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What is the term for making synthetic duplicates of a cell? \_\_\_\_\_
6. The nine planets of the solar system in order from the sun are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Microgravity may weaken the human \_\_\_\_\_ system so that a person may be more likely to develop the common cold.
8. ESA is an acronym for \_\_\_\_\_.
9. What is the daily requirement of oxygen for an average adult human male? \_\_\_\_\_
10. At what degree latitude will you find the equator of Mars? \_\_\_\_\_



**Key:**

1. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
2. 35 million
3. CO<sub>2</sub>
4. Phobos and Deimos
5. cloning
6. Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto
7. immune
8. European Space Agency
9. 2 pounds
10. zero

## CYDONIA



Above is a computer rendition of a flyby photo of the topography in the Cydonia region. This surface formation is located at 50° N latitude, 345° E longitude. The area in the computer rendition of the photograph is approximately one mile (1.6 kilometers) wide. The Cydonia region is at the edge of the northern polar region. Scientists suspect that the region includes small quantities of liquid water.

NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has had photos of this formation since the Viking 1 Mars Orbiter flight in 1976. NASA scientists have concluded that the image is a natural formation or a trick of light and shadow.

Today, most scientists agree that this phenomenon is a naturally occurring formation. However, some people believe that these features resemble a face. One optical engineering expert has noted that the features could have been carved out by intelligent design. Some people claim that it is an alien-made structure warning others to stay away. They claim it could have been carved out of a Martian mountain a half million years ago.

### Task

Write a paragraph listing your observations of the computer image and your objective analysis of the topographical formation.

### Resources

1. Odyssey, October 1991, "The Face on Mars," by Mary Algozin, pp. 12-13.
2. Recer, Paul, "Odd Formations on Mars Spark Interest," The Associated Press.
3. Page, Thornton and Page, Lou Williams, Space Science and Astronomy Vol. 9, "Sky and Telescope Library of Astronomy,"