

## Mars Exploration Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Mars Exploration trivia traces the story of how scientists and space agencies have studied the Red Planet, from 19th-century observations to orbiters, landers, and rovers operating today. It offers a family-friendly way to revisit famous missions, surprising discoveries, and the technical challenges of exploring a world that has shaped planetary science and public imagination.

### HARD MARS EXPLORATION TRIVIA

1. Which spacecraft made history in 1971 by becoming the first to orbit another planet when it arrived at Mars?

Answer: Mariner 9

2. In what year did NASA launch the twin Mars Exploration Rovers Spirit and Opportunity?

Answer: 2003

3. Give the UTC landing date for Spirit on Mars.?

Answer: January 4, 2004

4. Which exact UTC date marks Opportunity's landing on Mars?

Answer: January 25, 2004

5. Name the rover that landed on Mars on August 6, 2012, UTC.?

Answer: Curiosity

6. What is the UTC landing date of Perseverance on Mars?

Answer: February 18, 2021

7. A little orbital speed-run: on what date did Hope enter Mars orbit?

Answer: February 9, 2021

8. Which rover landed on Mars on May 15, 2021, marking a Chinese rover arrival on the planet?

Answer: Zhurong

9. What mission was China's first Mars mission to place an orbiter into Mars orbit?

Answer: Tianwen-1

10. Which NASA Mars spacecraft reached Mars in 2001 and is still noted as one of the agency's longest-operating Mars orbiters?

Answer: Mars Odyssey

11. As part of the ExoMars program, which orbiter reached Mars in 2016?

Answer: Trace Gas Orbiter

12. Which ExoMars landing attempt ended in a crash on Mars in 2016?

Answer: Schiaparelli

13. Curiosity does not rely on solar panels. What power source does it use instead?

Answer: A radioisotope thermoelectric generator

14. Perseverance's science mission is formally named after what year?

Answer: 2020

#### FUNNY MARS EXPLORATION TRIVIA

1. Which NASA spacecraft pair poked at Martian dirt in 1976 to look for signs of life, basically giving Mars a very serious science checkup?

Answer: The Viking landers.

2. The tiny rover Sojourner was about the size of what everyday kitchen appliance?

Answer: A microwave oven.

3. What part of Curiosity took a beating from sharp Martian rocks over time?

Answer: Curiosity's wheels.

4. Which piece of gear let Perseverance record the sound of Martian wind instead of just silently judging it?

Answer: Microphones.

5. Mars 2020 carried a small plaque honoring whom?

Answer: Health workers in the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. What dramatic nickname is often given to the risky descent phase of a Mars landing?

Answer: The 'seven minutes of terror.'

7. True or false: Engineers sometimes call Mars landings the 'seven minutes of terror' because the descent is especially risky.?

Answer: True

8. What lowering system did Perseverance use to reach the Martian surface without trying a graceful belly flop?

Answer: A sky crane system.

9. Which rover had already used the sky crane trick back in 2012, before Perseverance made it look cool again?

Answer: Curiosity.

10. NASA sometimes gives Martian dust devils what mini-weather-channel nickname?

Answer: 'Mini-tornadoes.'

11. The Phoenix lander worked near which part of Mars instead of hanging out near the equator?

Answer: Mars's north polar region.

12. What was the nickname of InSight's heat probe, as if Mars needed one more creature

burrowing around?

Answer: The mole.

13. Why did InSight's mole fail to reach its planned digging depth?

Answer: Because unexpected soil properties prevented it from digging as planned.

#### FUN MARS EXPLORATION TRIVIA

1. In the late 1800s, who got people buzzing about supposed Martian canals?

Answer: Percival Lowell popularized the idea of Martian canals in the late 1800s.

2. What Arizona observatory carries the name of an early Mars observer?

Answer: Lowell Observatory is named for Percival Lowell.

3. Which science communicator helped make Mars exciting for the public through books and television?

Answer: Carl Sagan helped popularize Mars science for the public through books and television.

4. At the center of Gale Crater sits a mountain with a double identity. What is its common name?

Answer: Aeolis Mons is also known as Mount Sharp.

5. What did Curiosity find that hinted Mars once had flowing streams rather than just dusty drama?

Answer: Curiosity found rounded pebbles, evidence of ancient flowing water on Mars.

6. Opportunity discovered tiny Martian spheres with a snackable nickname. What were they called?

Answer: They were nicknamed 'blueberries.'

7. For about how long did Opportunity keep working on Mars after its 2004 landing?

Answer: Opportunity operated for more than 14 years.

8. Which rover is busy storing drilled rock samples on Mars for a possible trip back to Earth someday?

Answer: Perseverance is caching drilled rock samples on Mars for possible return to Earth.

9. What is Perseverance doing with drilled rock samples instead of simply admiring them?

Answer: It is caching them on Mars for possible return to Earth.

10. Ingenuity didn't ride to Mars in first class. It arrived attached to the belly of which rover?

Answer: Ingenuity arrived attached to the belly of Perseverance.

11. How long did Ingenuity's first hop on Mars last?

Answer: The first Ingenuity flight lasted about 39 seconds.

12. True or false: Ingenuity was originally planned for only five demonstration flights.?

Answer: True

13. Before it became an overachiever, how many flights was Ingenuity originally supposed to make?

Answer: Its original plan was five flights.

#### MARS EXPLORATION FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which Mars mission confirmed the presence of water ice in Martian arctic soil in 2008?

Answer: Phoenix confirmed the presence of water ice in Martian arctic soil in 2008.

2. What do scientists call the method that removes cylindrical pieces of rock for later study?

Answer: That method is called core sampling.

3. What name is given to features or compounds that may indicate past or present life?

Answer: They are called biosignatures.

4. Spirit landed in which Martian crater?

Answer: Spirit landed in Gusev Crater.

5. Opportunity touched down at what Martian location?

Answer: Opportunity landed at Meridiani Planum.

6. What hill range on Mars was explored by Spirit?

Answer: Spirit explored the Columbia Hills.

7. Planum Boreum is the name for which part of Mars?

Answer: It refers to the north polar plateau of Mars.

8. Which Martian place is one of the largest impact basins on the planet?

Answer: Hellas Planitia is one of the largest impact basins on Mars.

9. What is a seismic event detected on Mars called?

Answer: It is called a marsquake.

10. Which instrument did InSight carry to study marsquakes?

Answer: InSight carried a seismometer to study marsquakes.

11. In what year did Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter begin orbiting Mars?

Answer: Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter began orbiting Mars in 2006.

12. Which mission mapped Mars from orbit after arriving in 1997?

Answer: Mars Global Surveyor mapped Mars from orbit after arriving in 1997.

#### EASY MARS EXPLORATION TRIVIA

1. What nickname is Mars famous for because of its reddish surface color?

Answer: The Red Planet

2. Which of Mars's two moons is the larger one?

Answer: Phobos

3. What is the name of the smaller moon of Mars?

Answer: Deimos

4. What is the tallest volcano on Mars called?

Answer: Olympus Mons

5. Which giant canyon system stretches across Mars?

Answer: Valles Marineris

6. What gas makes up most of the Martian atmosphere?

Answer: Carbon dioxide

7. Which spacecraft returned the first close-up images of Mars in 1965?

Answer: Mariner 4

8. Which mission made the first successful U.S. landing on Mars in 1976?

Answer: Viking 1

9. What was the first rover to operate on Mars?

Answer: Sojourner

10. Which Mars mission landed in 1997 and carried Sojourner?

Answer: Mars Pathfinder

11. Which rover was one of NASA's Mars Exploration Rovers launched in 2003?

Answer: Spirit

12. Which rover was Spirit's twin in NASA's Mars Exploration Rover mission?

Answer: Opportunity

13. Curiosity landed in which crater in 2012?

Answer: Gale Crater

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/mars-exploration>