Charlie's Mission to Mars

Read & Discover | Little Explorers (5-8) + Cosmic Adventurers (8-12)

Real Mars fact file: Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun. It looks reddish because iron-rich minerals on its surface have rusted. Mars has two small moons, Phobos and Deimos. A Martian day is about 24 hours and 39 minutes; a Martian year is about 687 Earth days.

How far away? The distance between Earth and Mars changes as both planets orbit the Sun. It can range from roughly 34 million to more than 250 million miles. A typical robotic spacecraft trip takes about 6-9 months.

LITTLE EXPLORERS | Space mission

1. Circle the planet we live on: Earth / Mars / Jupiter

2. What color is Mars often called? _____

3. Draw a real Mars explorer and one imaginary chocolate-planet creature.

Real explorer + imaginary creature

COSMIC ADVENTURERS | Think like a scientist

1. Why does the distance from Earth to Mars change?

_____

_____

2. A Martian year is about 687 Earth days. Is that longer or shorter than an Earth year? By about how many days?

_____

_____

3. Label each statement FACT or FICTION: Mars has two moons. _____ / Mars has chocolate rivers. _____

Explore more with a grown-up: NASA Space Place - All About Mars: spaceplace.nasa.gov/all-about-mars/en/