

# 2 CLIL Mars

## Summary

Mars, also known as *the Red Planet*, is still a mystery to us, but we are learning more about it every day. As our sister planet, it has features very similar to Earth even though it is only half the size. In the video we learn all about the planet, including its geography.

### Background

Mars is named after the Roman god of war. Space agencies around the world hope to be able to launch a manned mission to the planet in the future.

## Before you watch

### 1 Answer the question.

- Ask the class: *What is the other name for Mars?*
- Elicit students' answers and write them on the board.

#### Suggested answer

Mars is known as *The Red Planet* because of the reddish tint its surface is given by the iron oxide found there.

## While you watch

### 2 Watch and choose.

- Write the following sentences on the board:
  - 1 Mars is known as Earth's *brother / sister* planet.
  - 2 Mars is *one quarter / one half* the size of Earth.
  - 3 A day on Mars is 24 hours and 39 / 49 minutes long.
  - 4 Mars has got *two / three* moons.
  - 5 It takes 200 / 300 days to go from Earth to Mars.
- Play the video again.
- Students watch and choose the correct answers.
- Check answers with the class.

#### Answers

1 sister 2 one half 3 39 4 two 5 200

### 3 Watch and order.

- Write the following on the board:
  - a Mars has mountains, valleys and volcanoes.
  - b Robots like this can study the planet and look for living things.
  - c A year on Mars lasts 687 days.
  - d Mars rotates on its axis.
  - e Mars, like Earth, also revolves around the Sun.
- Play the video again.
- Students watch and order the sentences.
- Check answers with the class.

#### Answers

d – e – c – a – b

## After you watch

### 4 Work with a partner. Answer the questions.

- Put students into pairs to answer the following questions:
  - a Would you like to go to Mars one day?
  - b How long would you like to stay on Mars?
  - c Is space travel important? Why? Why not?
- Ask some students to report back to the class on their partner's ideas.

## Extension Activity

### 5 Write about a day on Mars.

- Ask students to imagine that they are astronauts on a mission on Mars.
- Students write about their daily routine on the planet, e.g. *In the morning we use robots to look for water. In the afternoon we take photographs of the mountains on Mars.*
- Students can read out their descriptions in small groups in the next lesson.

### 6 Find out about the famous astronauts.

- Ask students to find out where the following astronauts are from and what they were the first to do:
  - a Neil Armstrong
  - b Yuri Gagarin
  - c Yang Liwei
- Students can share what they learn with a partner at the beginning of the next class.

### Background

**Neil Armstrong** was an American astronaut who became the first man to walk on the Moon in 1969.

**Yuri Gagarin** was a Russian cosmonaut who became the first human being in space in 1961.

**Yang Liwei** is a Chinese astronaut who in 2003 became the first person from China to go into space.



## Mars

Our solar system has nine planets. One is Earth, and one is Mars. Mars is sometimes called *the Red Planet*. It is very similar to Earth, so we call it our 'sister planet'. Mars is half the size of Earth. Like Earth, Mars rotates on its axis. A day on Mars is 24 hours and 39 minutes long.

Mars, like Earth, also revolves around the Sun. Mars' orbit around the Sun takes almost *two* Earth years. A year on Mars lasts 687 days.

Mars has *two* moons. They're small, and close to the planet. One of the moons revolves round Mars *three times* every day. The geographies of Mars and Earth are very similar. Like Earth, Mars has mountains, valleys and volcanoes. This is the Valles Marineris on Mars.

It takes 200 days to travel from Earth to Mars. Before people can go to Mars, robots like this can study the planet and look for living things. Would you like to visit this interesting and mysterious planet?