

Lesson 3: Research Tools and Skills

Engagement Questions:

In the 1900's our ability to explore Mars via telescope from the Earth had reached its limits. Combined with our space-faring abilities, _____ became an excellent candidate for robotic exploration.

The first successful landing was NASA's _____ in 1976.

In 2003, NASA launched the Mars Exploration Rovers (MER), which later came to be called _____ and _____.

Phoenix landed so far north at a position similar to the high arctic on Earth that the team knew the spacecraft wouldn't last very long. It could only operate until the Martian _____ or fall because the sun would dip down low on the horizon, the solar panels would not be able to charge the batteries.

Exploration Activity:

Mars Facts

Mars' Nickname	
Position from the Sun	
Average Distance from the Sun	
Diameter of Mars in km	
Length of a Day (Rotation)	
Length of a Year (Revolution)	
Atmosphere	
Rings	
Moons	

Exploration Activity:

What is Olympic Mons? _____

How high is it in feet? _____

How did Mars get its nickname? _____

Why can't Mars store heat from the sun? _____

What are the ice caps on Mars made of? _____

What is another geographical feature of Mars? _____

Name two facts about this feature:

1. _____

2. _____

Describe three characteristics of the surface of Mars:

1. _____

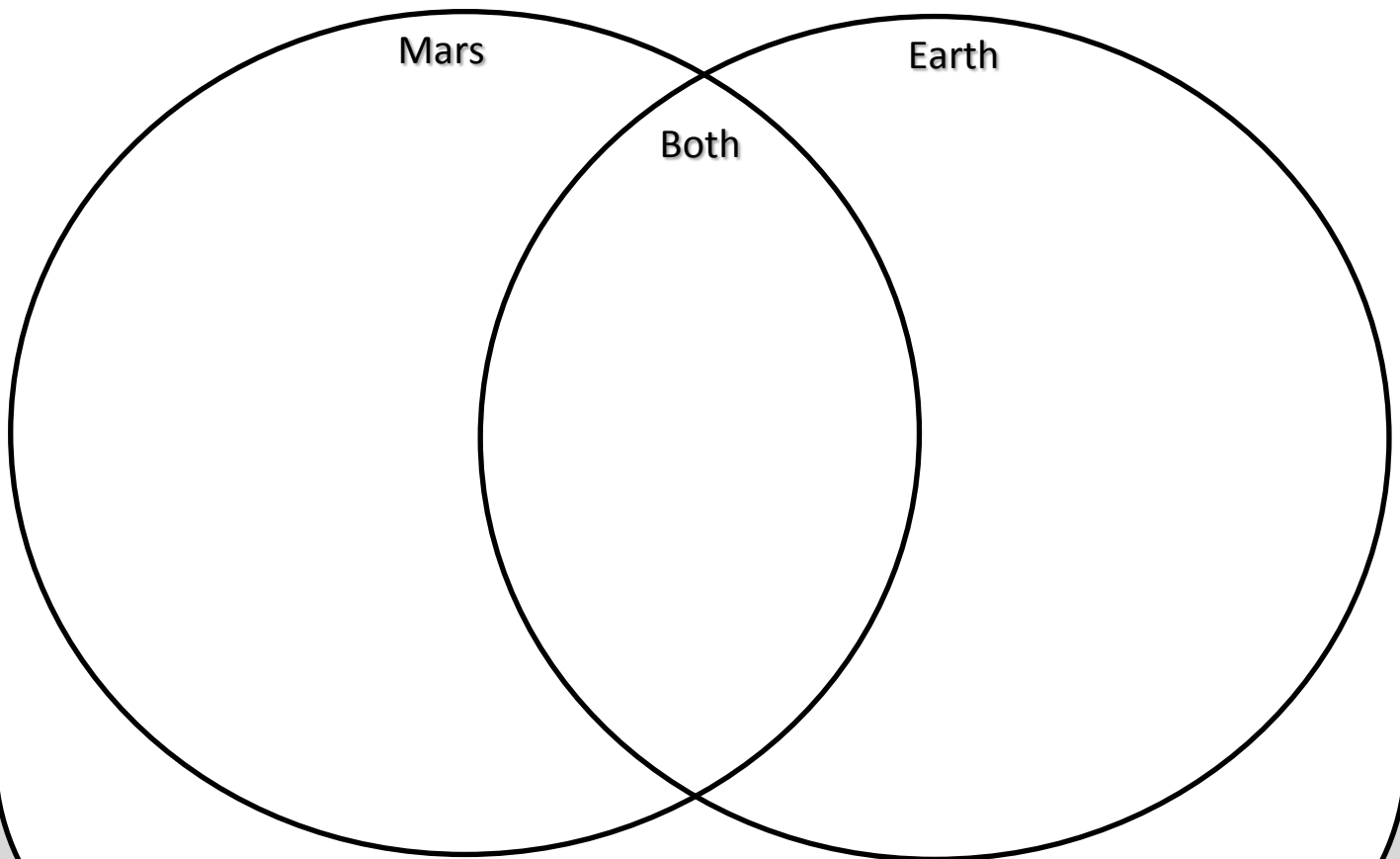
2. _____

3. _____

Why does Mars have seasons? _____

Explanation:

Based on the information you have researched about Mars, complete the Venn Diagram. If more space is needed, complete your Venn Diagram on a separate page and tape it neatly into the space below.



Evaluation:

Which of the informational text features you learned about today was the most helpful to you in researching information for your Mars Rover project? _____
