



● ● Curiosity Rover: Searching for Life on Mars

Grade 4

Name: _____

Read the passage about space exploration. Then answer the questions below.

Humans have been exploring space since 1957. Each passage focuses on a real mission, discovery, or astronaut story.

● Curiosity Rover: Searching for Life on Mars

The Curiosity rover is like a robotic scientist exploring the surface of Mars. It landed in a place called Gale Crater on August 6, 2012, after a long journey from Earth. Its main job is to figure out if Mars ever had the right conditions to support tiny living things, also known as microbial life. To land safely, Curiosity used a special method called the "sky crane," which lowered it gently to the ground. This was a very tricky and exciting landing!

Since its landing, Curiosity has been busy exploring Mars, taking pictures, and studying rocks and soil. It has powerful tools, including cameras, drills, and a laser, to analyze samples. One of its most important discoveries is finding strong evidence that Gale Crater once contained lakes and streams of liquid water. This means ancient Mars could have been a habitable place, a place where life might have existed long ago. Curiosity continues its mission, sending back amazing information that helps us understand our solar system better.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- (1) When did the Curiosity rover land on Mars? 📅
- (A) August 6, 2012 (B) July 20, 1969 (C) September 1, 2010
- (D) March 14, 2020



- (2) **What was the main reason scientists sent the Curiosity rover to Mars?** 🚀
- (A) To build a human colony on Mars
 - (B) To find out if Mars ever had conditions for life
 - (C) To collect samples from the Moon
 - (D) To orbit Mars and take pictures from above
- (3) **In the passage, what does the word "habitable" mean when describing ancient Mars?** 🌍
- (A) A place that is very cold and icy
 - (B) A place where life might have been able to exist
 - (C) A place with many tall mountains
 - (D) A place that is easy to visit
- (4) **If Curiosity found a new type of rock that only forms in very hot, dry conditions, what might scientists conclude about that specific area of Mars?** 🔥
- (A) It definitely had liquid water in the past
 - (B) It was likely a very cold place
 - (C) It was probably not a place where ancient life could easily thrive
 - (D) It is a good place to build a future human base
- (5) **In your own words, explain one important discovery Curiosity has made about Mars.** 🌟

