## The Red Planet

**Part 1:** As a seasoned space traveler, Snoopy is excited to think about the discoveries that NASA's new rover Perseverance might make after landing on Mars on February 18, 2021.

How much do you know about Mars? Use your knowledge to complete this crossword puzzle.



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## Across

- **2.** Mars is sometimes called the \_\_\_\_\_ planet.
- **4.** The distance from Earth to Mars ranges from 33.9 to 249 \_\_\_\_\_ miles.
- **7.** Scientists have sent orbiters, landers, and to Mars.
- **8.** The Perseverance rover uses a \_\_\_\_\_ to help it land.

## Down

- 1. Mars has two small moons named \_\_\_\_\_ and Phobos.
- The average temperature on Mars is \_\_\_\_\_\_ degrees below zero Fahrenheit.
- 5. With the addition of bacteria and organic matter, the sediment on Mars might become soil that could contain enough \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to grow plants.
- **6.** It will take astronauts about seven or eight \_\_\_\_\_ to get to Mars.

**Part 2**: Neil Armstrong famously said, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind" when he first stepped on the moon. Imagine you are the first human to set foot on Mars. What would you say? What do you think it would be like to live and work there? Write your thoughts below.

**Families:** Explore Mars together! Visit https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/mars/overview/ to learn more about Earth's fascinating neighbor, and https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/ for more about Perseverance and its mission.





