

Name _____ Per _____ Score _____

A

Science Article of the Week: Mars

Directions:

Step 1: As you read the article, STOP when you notice something important, surprising, and interesting or though provoking. Then before you continue reading, make a quick sketch of what you were thinking in the margin. The goal is to create a quick picture that will help you remember your thoughts and the information. Don't worry if you don't feel like you are an artist. Stick figures are fine. Sketching is a different way for you to think about the material. (You should have at least 5 sketches)

Step 2: When you finish, go back to the article, reexamine your sketches, and try to add further details so you can just glance down at your drawings and easily remember what the article is about without having to read it again.

Step 3: Answer the questions:

1. Which statement from the article shows that Mars is a special planet?

- A The study also found a type of salt on Mars.
- B Scientists found that water on Mars turned to gas very quickly.
- C This water may be forming lines on the planet. The lines look like wet sand.
- D Mars is the only planet besides Earth to show that there might be water on the surface.

2. What did scientists discover on Mars?

- A water that exists as gas
- B evidence of frozen water
- C evidence of liquid saltwater
- D water beneath the surface

3. Which paragraph in the section "Lines In The Sand" BEST supports the following conclusion?

The salt helps form the lines in the sand on Mars.

4. Based on the section "We Need A Closer Look," which of the following statements is most likely TRUE?

- A Humans can drink the liquid water on Mars.
- B Scientists will send another rover to Mars.
- C Scientists will visit Mars to explore the planet.
- D Liquid saltwater on Mars is formed by RSL.

Scientists are excited by big water discovery on Mars

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff

09.30.15

Word Count 329

Planet Mars might have liquid water on it. It is a new discovery that has many people excited. The U.S. space agency NASA announced the discovery this week. Perhaps one day, people will be able to drink the liquid water.

A lot of research was done to find the liquid water. Lujendra Ojha was in charge of the research. He is a student at Georgia Tech University. Mars is the only planet besides Earth to show that there might be water on the surface. Other planets have water under the surface. They also have water that exists as a gas. Now Mars has evidence that water can exist as a liquid.

Lines In The Sand

Last year, other scientists learned about the water from the Mars rover. A rover is a robotic machine that can explore a planet. Scientists found that water on Mars turned to gas very quickly. The study also found a type of salt on Mars. The salt keeps the water from turning to gas so quickly.

This water may be forming lines on the planet. The lines look like wet sand. The science name for the lines is recurring slope lineae, or RSL.

Ojha and his team studied the lines on Mars. They found high amounts of the salts. It seems like the salts have been getting water, too. The water may help to form the RSL.

The scientists studied where they thought they were seeing water. They also found the salts there, Ojha said. The salts seem to disappear in areas where the lines are not forming.

We Need A Closer Look

Ojha's work shows that the liquid saltwater may help form the RSL. It shows that Mars has liquid flowing today.

However, there is more work to do. The scientists hope that a rover can take a closer look at the RSL.

If humans ever go to Mars, they could probably use the salts, Ojha said. "We wouldn't have to bring tons of water."