

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Constructing a Response

**Directions:** Read "She Lived on Mars (sort of)" and complete the activity. Then follow the steps below to write a response to the question on page 13.

Question:  
**Why are analog missions important?**

### Step 1: Write your claim.

Complete the sentence below to write your claim in response to the question.

Analog missions are important because ...

### Step 2: Provide text evidence with commentary.

Write two details from the article that support your claim. You can write them in the form of direct quotations or paraphrases. Include a citation for each detail. Explain how each detail supports your claim.

Detail 1:

Sentence explaining how this detail supports my claim:

Detail 2:

Sentence explaining how this detail supports my claim:

### **Step 3: Write a conclusion.**

Wrap it all up. End your paragraph with a few strong sentences that will give your readers something to think about. One option is to refer to your central claim. Or come up with an idea of your own!

Now it's time to put it all together. And guess what? You've already done the hardest part! All that's left is to take what you just wrote and put it together into one flowing paragraph. Write your final response on a separate sheet of paper or in your own document.

**Remember to:**

- Use transitions between sentences.
- Read your paragraph to make sure your ideas are clear. Revise as needed.
- When you are satisfied with your paragraph, read it again to make sure there are no spelling or punctuation mistakes.

# Scope It Out!

## Podcast Transcript

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Welcome to Scope It Out, the podcast where we take YOU on a thrilling journey. I'm your host Kristin Lewis. Are you ready?

Because today we're heading somewhere no human has ever been before.

Close your eyes. Are your eyes closed? Good. Now, picture in your mind's eye the room around you. What is beneath your feet? Above your head? What do you smell? What do you hear?

Now imagine rising up from the ground. Through the ceiling, through the roof. Now you're outside. You're getting higher. What do you see? What do you feel? Is the air cool on your face? The buildings and trees and people below get smaller as you rise into the sky. Past the birds. Past the planes. You lift through a mist of clouds. Higher and higher.

And then . . . the blue sky dissolves.

You're floating above the Earth, a blue green swirl of continents and oceans. And beyond that? Space. A beautiful black expanse speckled with starlight.

But your journey isn't over. In fact, it's just beginning.

You head away from the Earth. Past the silver grey moon.

In the distance, the sun churns out fiery light, bathing the solar system in warmth.

You pick up speed.

Suddenly, a red dot comes into your view.

You fly toward it. It gets larger. It's a planet. You're zooming toward the surface, closer and closer.

Until you land with a thud in the rocky dirt.

Welcome to the planet Mars.

Mars is about 140 million miles from where you started on Earth. Since the dawn of time, humans have looked up at the red planet and wondered.

It has had many names.

The Egyptians called it "the red one." In ancient China, it was known as "the fire star." The ancient Romans named it Mars, after the god of war. Its reddish color reminded them of blood.

Today we understand why Mars appears red. The dirt contains a mineral called iron that rusts and then gets kicked up in the atmosphere. This gives the planet a red hue.

For most of human history, Mars was a mystery—until the 1800s, when powerful new telescopes gave scientists a way to look more closely at the red planet. And in the coming centuries, better and better technology helped them learn more and more about this fascinating place. Right now, there are six satellites orbiting Mars, beaming back all sorts of information to Earth. And down on the surface? A rover zips along taking photographs and measurements.

So what have scientists learned?

A lot.

In fact, we know more about Mars than any other planet, aside from Earth of course.

Mars has seasons just like Earth. But they last a lot longer. One year on Earth is 365 days. That's how long it takes Earth to orbit the Sun. But on Mars? One year is 687 Earth days.

So what's it like down on the surface?

You tell me. Because that's where you are, remember?

You're definitely cold. The average surface temperature is 80 degrees below zero. And it's good this is just a fantasy, because the air on Mars is too thin to breathe. But oh, what wonders you see!

Rocky cliffs. Deep valleys. Olympus Mons, the biggest known volcano in the solar system.

And that's not at all. As you take a step, you feel like you're floating. Mars is about half the size of Earth—and has only 1/3 the gravity. In other words, take a leap on Mars, and you might soar three times higher than you would back home on Earth.

Uh oh. Hear that? You better take cover. That's an enormous dust storm coming straight toward you. These violent storms can last for months and cover the entire planet.

It's time to return to Earth now. But this won't be the last time you get to visit. You can go back to Mars any time in your imagination.

And who knows? NASA, America's space agency, plans to send humans to Mars within 13 years—for real.

Maybe YOU will be one of them.

Sound editing by Dryspell Productions.

Script by Kristin Lewis.

All music and sound effects by Pond5.



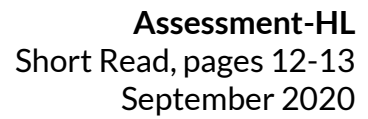
**Podcast**  
Short Read, pages 12-13  
September 2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## “She Lived on Mars (sort of)” Quiz

**Directions:** Read “She Lived on Mars (sort of).” Then answer the questions below.

1. **Which line best expresses a central idea of the article?**
  - A. “Proctor will tell you that being an analog astronaut is rewarding. . .”
  - B. “Her ‘mission to Mars’ actually took place on the side of a volcano in Hawaii.”
  - C. “That was the whole point.”
  - D. “The purpose of an analog mission is to learn how to make real space missions safe and successful.”
2. **Which detail best supports the answer to Question 1?**
  - A. “You need to be resilient, work well in a group, and stay calm under stress.”
  - B. “Analog missions are used to test technology, conduct experiments, and study the effects of space travel on humans.”
  - C. “Freeze-dried foods are a staple of astronauts’ diets . . .”
  - D. “Humans have been dreaming of the stars for thousands of years.”
3. **Information about how technology has helped scientists learn more about space would best fit in**
  - A. the section “Safe and Successful.”
  - B. the caption on the photo on page 12.
  - C. the section “Questions to Answer.”
  - D. the introduction.
4. **What is the main purpose of the section “Safe and Successful”?**
  - A. to show what it takes for analog astronauts to be successful
  - B. to explain the goal of Proctor’s mission and to describe what the mission was like
  - C. to explain the conditions on Mars and why it is difficult for humans to live there
  - D. to provide a brief history of space exploration
5. **The author likely included the detail about analog astronauts on Proctor’s mission showering infrequently to**
  - A. show how tough analog astronauts are.
  - B. demonstrate a way that Proctor’s mission simulated conditions on Mars: Water will be scarce, so astronauts will have to be careful about how much they use.
  - C. explain how analog astronauts build their resilience.
  - D. try to convince readers to not become analog astronauts.
6. **Which statements can be supported by information in the article? Choose TWO answers.**
  - A. Analog missions are an important part of space exploration.
  - B. Space exploration is safe.
  - C. The first astronauts sent to Mars will face difficult conditions.
  - D. Analog astronauts get paid well.





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    - B. “Her ‘mission to Mars’ actually took place on the side of a volcano in Hawaii.”
    - C. “That was the whole point.”
    - D. “The purpose of an analog mission is to learn how to make real space missions safe and successful.”
  2. **Which detail best supports the answer to Question 1?**
    - A. “You need to be resilient, work well in a group, and stay calm under stress.”
    - B. “Analog missions are used to test technology, conduct experiments, and study the effects of space travel on humans.”
    - C. “Freeze-dried foods are a staple of astronauts’ diets . . .”
    - D. “Humans have been dreaming of the stars for thousands of years.”
  3. **Where would be the best place to add information about how technology has helped scientists learn more about space?**
    - A. the section “Safe and Successful”
    - B. the caption on the photo on page 12
    - C. the section “Questions to Answer”
    - D. the introduction
  4. **In the section “Safe and Successful,” the author**
    - A. lists qualities analog astronauts need to be successful.
    - B. states the goal of Proctor’s mission and gives examples of the activities the crew performed.
    - C. explains why it is difficult for humans to live on Mars.
    - D. provides a timeline of space exploration.
  5. **Why didn’t the analog astronauts on Proctor’s mission shower more often?**
    - A. because they ran out of soap
    - B. to simulate conditions on Mars; water will be scarce, so astronauts will have to be careful about how much they use
    - C. to prove their toughness
    - D. to simulate what it would be like on Mars if the water system broke down
  6. **What is the purpose of the article? Choose TWO answers.**
    - A. to explain what an analog mission is and why analog missions are important
    - B. to provide a detailed explanation of the technology needed to get to Mars
    - C. to inform readers about how scientists prepare for space missions
    - D. to show how challenging it is to be cut off from the rest of the world for a long period of time

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## Constructed-Response Questions

**Directions:** Write your answers in the space provided or use your own paper or document.

7. Proctor provides a list of qualities that are important for analog astronauts to have in order to be successful. What is one other quality you think would be important? Use text evidence to support your answer.
8. On page 12, the authors write that the crew on Proctor’s mission faced “many of the challenges that people stationed on Mars would face.” Describe two of these challenges and how Proctor’s crew handled them.