

NAME _____ DATE _____ PERIOD _____

The Mars Rovers have Landed

Go to <http://marsrover.nasa.gov/home/index.html> and <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/mer2004/index.html> and use them to answer the following questions:

- 1) What does JPL stand for?

- 2) On the left, click on the "Fact Sheet."

What are the names of the two rovers?

- 3) How long did it take the Spirit Rover to reach Mars?

- 4) How much does each rover weigh?



This mosaic image taken by the navigation camera on the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit has been reprocessed to project a clear overhead view of the rover on the surface of Mars.

- 5) What is the main science goal of the mission?

- 6) Why was this specific landing sight chosen?

- 7) What are the five science instruments used for?

- 8) How were the names of the rovers selected?

- 9) Go back to the JPL Rover home page and click on the images for January 6, 2004 (you will have to click on image archive). Click on "first color image." This is the highest resolution picture ever taken of the surface of Mars. Pretty cool, huh? Describe what you see.

- 10) Why do you think the Mars rocks have a reddish color?

- 11) Go back to the image archive. Click on March 2, 2004. This is the day JPL scientists were convinced there was once water on Mars. Look at the images on this page and describe why they were convinced. Name specific images from that day in your answer.

- 12) Go to the images for February 16, 2004. Go to "After a U-Turn." Look at the tracks made by the rover in the photo. How far did Opportunity travel in the last day?

- 13) Go to the images on January 5, 2004. Go to the first 3-D image. If you would like to see this in 3-D, ask me to borrow my one pair of 3-D glasses.

- 14) Go to the images for March 8, 2004. Click on "Some Rocky Road, Please." Why will Spirit change its route to the north to go to its next destination?

15) On the Rover home page, under "Popular Images," Click on "Spirit 360° Color Panorama." This is the first ever 360° color panorama of Mars. What do you think of Mars?

16) Choose any other three dates for Mars images. Write down the date and the name of one image in that date. Briefly describe the pictures.

17) Go to "Rover Daily Updates." Click on the most recent date. Summarize the update for that date.

18) Back on the Rover home page, under "Features," click on "Sheddings from Opportunity Lead Rover Fans on a 'Bunny' Chase." Scientists are baffles over this image. What do you think it is?

What do scientists think it is?

19) Under "Multimedia," click on "Rover Mission Animation." Click on "MER Entry, Descent and Landing on Mars – 2003" What do you think of the landing?

20) Read the press release for 11/5/07 (*Untouched and Untouchable for Now*). What is the problem with dust?