

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. Which sentence best tells the main idea of this book?
 - Ⓐ NASA is the United States' space agency.
 - Ⓑ *Curiosity* is a rover sent to Mars to look for evidence of life on the planet.
 - Ⓒ NASA scientists will be listening for at least the next two years as *Curiosity* drives on Mars.
 - Ⓓ *Curiosity* landed on Mars on August 6, 2012.
2. Read this sentence: **Microbes** *might be in the soil*. Which of the following means the same as **microbes**?
 - Ⓐ vehicles
 - Ⓑ intense wavelengths
 - Ⓒ information
 - Ⓓ microscopic organisms
3. What type of book is *Curiosity on Mars*?
 - Ⓐ realistic fiction
 - Ⓑ descriptive nonfiction
 - Ⓒ fantasy fiction
 - Ⓓ informational nonfiction
4. What is the author's main purpose in this book?
 - Ⓐ to inform
 - Ⓑ to persuade
 - Ⓒ to explain a process
 - Ⓓ to entertain

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5. Three of the following sentences are supporting details. Which sentence tells the main idea?
 - Ⓐ In 1996, the United States launched the *Pathfinder* probe.
 - Ⓑ Many space probes have been sent to Mars to study its geology and look for evidence of life.
 - Ⓒ *Spirit* and *Opportunity* were sent to study Mars in 2004.
 - Ⓓ *Sojourner's* findings showed scientists that Mars was more Earthlike than originally thought.
6. Which statement is an opinion?
 - Ⓐ Exploring Mars is the most exciting operation NASA has ever undertaken.
 - Ⓑ *Curiosity* is outfitted with many newly designed pieces of equipment.
 - Ⓒ *Curiosity* has a rock-blasting laser.
 - Ⓓ The building blocks of life include carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and other elements.
7. How is Earth different from Mars?
 - Ⓐ The seasons change.
 - Ⓑ There are volcanoes, mountains, and valleys.
 - Ⓒ Life is known to exist on the planet.
 - Ⓓ Earth is much older.
8. *Curiosity, Spirit, Opportunity, and Sojourner* are supporting details to which main idea?
 - Ⓐ *The War of the Worlds* is a movie about Martians attacking Earth.
 - Ⓑ There are four basic elements that are considered the building blocks of life.
 - Ⓒ Scientists relay signals using three satellites orbiting Mars.
 - Ⓓ Different robotic rovers have studied Mars.

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9. What was the cause of the people of New York City panicking in 1938?
- Ⓐ They learned Mars and Earth were very similar.
 - Ⓑ They heard on their radios that a huge flaming object had smashed into a New Jersey farm and Martians were invading.
 - Ⓒ They heard that an astronomer saw canals on the Martian surface.
 - Ⓓ They learned that NASA had sent spacecraft to Mars to search for aliens.

10. *Earthling* is to *Earth* as _____ is to *Mars*.

- Ⓐ *Martian*
- Ⓑ *Curiosity*
- Ⓒ *NASA*
- Ⓓ *extraterrestrial*

11. **Extended Response:** What kinds of events happen to Matt Heverly on a typical work day?

12. **Extended Response:** Why will *Curiosity* study the soil only in Gale Crater?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

Curiosity on Mars

Main Comprehension Skill: Main Idea and Details

1. Ⓑ Main Idea and Details
2. Ⓓ Vocabulary
3. Ⓓ Identify Genre
4. Ⓐ Author's Purpose
5. Ⓑ Main Idea and Details
6. Ⓐ Fact or Opinion
7. Ⓒ Compare and Contrast
8. Ⓓ Main Idea and Details
9. Ⓑ Cause and Effect
10. Ⓐ Vocabulary
11. Answers will vary but should include information from the text such as the following: *drives Curiosity, meets with scientists to talk about where the rover should go, wears special glasses to study the 3-D images that Curiosity sends, uses a computer program that simulates the route on Mars, and so on.*
12. Answers will vary but should include information from the text such as the following: *scientists think they have the best opportunity to find evidence of life inside this crater; the hole is the size of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined; scientists believe that Gale Crater was once flooded with water and water is vital for life; if Mars was wet, perhaps life flowered on its surface; and so on.*