

## Persuasive writing



If you like dramatic weather, dusty conditions and the most extreme natural landscapes in the solar system, the spectacular red planet of Mars could be your destination of choice.

### How's the weather?

Driven by the fine, sunlight-absorbing dust that engulfs the planet instead of the water that triggers meteorological changes on Earth, the weather on Mars is characterised by dust storms, dust devils and raging winds. The two hemispheres of Mars, like those of Earth, experience four seasons, and carbon dioxide condenses and forms seasonal frost deposits during the Martian winter. The weather on Mars is mostly predictable temperatures can rise and fall quickly. With an atmosphere only 1% as thick as Earth's and no magnetic field to shield from solar flares and cosmic rays, the Red Planet offers harsh conditions that are much more severe than on Earth.

### Amazing landscapes

The terrain of Mars is characterised by exaggerated extremes, including massive canyons, such as Valles Marineris along the equator, and Olympus Mons, the tallest volcano in the solar system. At 25 kilometres high, Olympus Mons is three times higher than Mount Everest. Scenic impact craters, such as the enormous Helias Basin, along with channels, gulleys and low lying plains that were once rivers and ocean beds are worth exploring.

### Retrieval

1. How many seasons are there on Mars ?
2. How high is the tallest volcano in the solar system ?

### Words in context

3. Find and copy two words which show it is much harder to live on Mars than Earth.
4. Find and copy an example of the 'rule of 3'.

### Inference

5. What sort of person would you need to be to want to visit Mars ? Use examples from the text to explain your answer.