

12

Science and nature

12.1 THE RED PLANET

IN THIS UNIT

GRAMMAR

- cohesion 2 (substitution)
- nominalisation

VOCABULARY

- geological terms
- informal phrases
- collective nouns

SCENARIO

- referring to what other people have said
- taking part in a panel discussion

STUDY SKILLS

- examination skills

WRITING SKILLS

- a personal statement

Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood. Marie Curie (1867–1934), Polish scientist

SPEAKING

1a Work with a partner and discuss the questions.

- 1 How important is it for humans to explore space?
- 2 Do you know any current or future projects to explore space?
- 3 Which planet in our solar system most interests you? Why?

1b Compare Earth and Mars. Which planet do you think:

- 1 is bigger?
- 2 is warmer?
- 3 orbits the Sun faster?
- 4 has a longer day?
- 5 has more gravity?
- 6 has more moons?
- 7 has more nitrogen in its atmosphere?

1c Check your answers on page 164.

VOCABULARY

GEOLOGICAL TERMS

2a Work with a partner. Take turns to choose a word you know from the box and explain its meaning to your partner, without saying the word. Your partner tries to guess the word.

canyon crater erosion flash flood geyser ice cap
meteor reservoir subsurface tsunami

2b When you have explained all the words you know, look up any unknown words in a dictionary or check with your teacher.

2c Which of the words have a strong connection with water?

READING

3a Read the article and choose the best heading for paragraphs A–F. You do not need four of the headings.

- 1 Characteristics shared with Earth
- 2 The possibility of life on Mars
- 3 More thrilling discoveries to come
- 4 A common history
- 5 Rethinking our ideas about Mars
- 6 The view from our spacecraft
- 7 The method of investigation
- 8 Early images of the planet
- 9 What water means for life on Earth
- 10 Evidence of a different past

3b **Distinguishing fact from opinion** Read the information in the box below. Then look at the highlighted parts of the article. Are they fact, opinion or a combination of both?

To increase our understanding of texts, it's important to distinguish fact from opinion. This is not always straightforward as some statements may be a combination of both.

Every time we feel close to understanding Mars, ... (opinion)

... new discoveries send us straight back to the drawing board to revise existing theories. (fact)