

Mars for Earthlings

LESSON 1: Introduction

Homework 1

Intro to Mars_MFE

Google Mars

Objective: Observe important features and “divisions” of the surface of Mars.

Introduction: This brief introduction will hone your observation skills to notice features on the surface of Mars and some of the major natural landscape features.

Getting Started

Use the web version of Google Mars

<http://www.google.com/mars/>

Notice that the map wraps (repeats), so you’ll want to crop the window so it just shows 1.

Exploring Mars

This initial flat plane projection map has 3 viewing options (upper right). The standard default is _____. Here, the colors represent the scale in units of _____. The other 2 viewing options are _____ and _____.

Click on Stories. What is the name of the Martian rift zone? _____

In the left column window, click on “glossary” and review the terms. A mountain is called _____ and a low plain is called _____. A high plain is called _____.

Click on Spacecraft. Why do you think the spacecrafts were mainly in the “middle” of the planet? _____

Overall

Just looking at the color patterns & textures, if you were dividing the planet into 2 parts, how would they be defined and what are their characteristics?

Location

Characteristics

1.

2.



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Draw the boundary line between your two parts and discuss your answers with one of your classmates (as assigned) and compare thoughts.

