

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Exploring Mars: Spirit and Opportunity

## Brainstorming Page 2

Use the table below to gather details and evidence related to the writing prompt.

Create a brochure for children that teaches them about one of the planets in our solar system.

Planet: <u>Mars</u>	
Basic Information	<p><u>Mars Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Half the size of Earth</li> <li>● 142 million miles from the sun</li> <li>● 1 day = Sol (solar day) = 24.6 hours</li> <li>● Has seasons: longer than Earth, not equal length</li> <li>● 2 moons– Phobos and Deimos</li> <li>● Oxidizing iron makes surface look red</li> <li>● Surface has canyons, craters, volcanoes</li> <li>● Thin atmosphere– temperature can get very cold</li> <li>● Winds create strong dust storms</li> </ul>
Exploration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Only planet inhabited by robots (<i>Mars Exploration</i>)</li> <li>● Mariner 9– first to orbit another planet, mapped most of Mars (<i>Mariner Missions to Mars</i>)</li> <li>● Vikings 1 and 2: first US mission to land safely on Mars, sent back picture (<i>Viking Project</i>)</li> <li>● Spirit, Opportunity, Curiosity have explored Mars (<i>Mars Exploration Rovers: Spirit and Opportunity</i>)</li> </ul>
Important Questions/Findings	<p><u>Mars Exploration Science Goals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scientists looking for signs of past life</li> <li>● Studying current weather/climate to understand past climate</li> <li>● Discovery of magnetic fields → possible life in past</li> <li>● Studying geology (rocks) shows that water was present</li> </ul>