

Name _____



Mars By The Numbers

Directions: Read the passage quickly using **scanning techniques**: focus your eyes on **numbers** instead of reading every word. Circle or underline every number you find in the passage. Then, complete the chart below by explaining **what each number refers to** in your own words.

“Journey to Mars”

NASA’s mission to send humans to **Mars** is one of the most ambitious projects in space exploration. The planet lies about **140 million miles** from Earth on average, meaning a one-way trip could take roughly **7 months** using current spacecraft technology.

Preparations began years before launch. In **2020**, NASA tested the *Perseverance Rover*, which collected more than **30 rock samples** and studied the planet’s surface. The data gathered helped engineers design future life-support systems.

The first crewed mission is expected sometime in the **2030s**. Each spacecraft will carry around **4 astronauts**, along with over **2,000 pounds** of food, equipment, and water. The goal is to spend about **500 days** on Mars conducting experiments before returning to Earth.

To train for this journey, astronauts spend over **1,000 hours** practicing in simulated environments. The mission’s total cost is estimated to exceed **\$100 billion**, making it one of the most expensive projects in NASA’s history.

Number	What It Refers To