

Name _____

Reading About Olympus Mons



Olympus Mons is the largest volcano in the solar system, located on the planet Mars. It rises about 13.6 miles (22 kilometers) high, nearly three times the height of Mount Everest. Unlike Earth's volcanoes, which are shaped by moving tectonic plates, Olympus Mons formed in one place over millions of years as lava slowly built up. Scientists believe its eruptions were gentle but long-lasting, creating wide slopes that stretch across an area roughly the size of the state of Arizona. Although it is not currently erupting, Olympus Mons shows how volcanic activity has shaped Mars in dramatic ways.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Where is Olympus Mons located?
2. How tall is Olympus Mons compared to Mount Everest?
3. Why did Olympus Mons grow so large compared to Earth's volcanoes?
4. What type of eruptions built Olympus Mons: violent explosions or gentle flows?
5. How does Olympus Mons help scientists learn about Mars?

Reflection Question: If you were an astronaut landing near Olympus Mons, what challenges and opportunities might you face exploring such a giant volcano? Write 3-4 sentences.
