

The Martian

by Andy Weir

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.
Review before use, or edit the DOCX via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

About the Pre-Reading Activity

Open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade. Students preview 20 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz

Use after reading, or skip. The same words appear in excerpts from the text.

Practice words: bacteria, botany, breach, calorie, component, copious, detach, flammable, focus (2), function (2), increment, ion, longitude, probe, ration, redundant, tether, yield



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	C
7	A
8	B
9	A
10	B
11	B
12	A
13	B
14	A
15	B
16	A
17	A
18	A
19	C
20	A

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. She survived a severe infection of MRSA **bacteria**.
 - A. lice
 - B. germs
 - C. mosquitoes
2. His passion for **botany** led him to a career in ecology.
 - A. study of rocks
 - B. study of plants
 - C. study of stars
3. Telling everyone's secret was a **breach** of trust, and her friends were really upset.
 - A. breaking
 - B. requirement
 - C. duty
4. I switched from sodas and candy to water and low-calorie snacks.
 - A. a kind of vitamin
 - B. a type of food allergy
 - C. a unit of food energy
5. Trust is a key **component** of any strong and lasting friendship.
 - A. goal
 - B. part
 - C. result
6. The chef served **copious** amounts of food at the wedding reception.
 - A. small in amount
 - B. rare and unusual
 - C. large in quantity
7. These days, she seems emotionally **detached** whenever she talks about him.
 - A. separated
 - B. connected
 - C. heightened
8. Nothing **flammable** should be stored near the hot water heater.
 - A. attractive to insects
 - B. easily set on fire
 - C. easily damaged by water
9. This week, I'm **focusing** on finishing my research paper.
 - A. concentrating
 - B. depending
 - C. getting help
10. The **focus** of this class is classic American Literature.
 - A. hardest part
 - B. area where attention is concentrated
 - C. prerequisite (understanding required to enroll)
11. Scientist do not know all the **functions** that the nutrient performs.
 - A. mathematical calculations
 - B. natural activities
 - C. transitions in form
12. My brain does not **function** as well when I'm under stress.
 - A. work
 - B. feel
 - C. have fun

13. The table shows the amount of tax based on \$1,000 increments in income.
- A. subsidies
 - B. increases
 - C. regulations
14. The ion propulsion system is incredibly efficient in space.
- A. atom with an electric charge
 - B. engine that burns liquid fuel
 - C. wave of pure light energy
15. For a long time, sailors could not accurately determine longitude at sea.
- A. depth of water
 - B. east-west position
 - C. distance to shore
16. The committee will probe the cause of the failure.
- A. investigate
 - B. make better
 - C. make worse
17. During the Second World War, products such as food and gasoline were rationed in the United States, so more resources could be devoted to the war effort.
- A. restricted in the amount each person could have
 - B. set at a high price only the military could afford
 - C. imported in small amounts from many countries
18. After the merger, they concluded the office was redundant.
- A. more than is needed or desired
 - B. less than what is required
 - C. exactly fitting requirements
19. The astronaut is tethered to the space station while doing outside repairs.
- A. close
 - B. outside
 - C. tied
20. The experiment yielded data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

- 1 *Hermes is powered by **ion** engines.*
 - A. an atom that has acquired an electrical charge by the loss or gain of an electron
 - B. something that serves as evidence -- especially a statement at a trial or hearing
 - C. a group, made up of government representatives, that has the power to create laws
- 2 *Naturally, they didn't send us to Mars until they'd confirmed that all the supplies had made it to the surface and their containers weren't **breached**.*
 - A. broke or penetrated
 - B. excessively excited
 - C. nervous or confused
- 3 *Then, the **copious** blood from my wound trickled down toward the hole.*
 - A. able to accept as true (without proof)
 - B. able to be protected or kept unchanged
 - C. abundant (large in quantity or number)
- 4 *For **redundancy**, the supply probes had enough food to last the whole crew fifty-six days.*
 - A. more than is needed -- often something that is unnecessarily repeated

or in technical usage: describing a secondary component designed to work if the primary component fails

 - B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
 - C. a musical play with orchestra in which most of the dialogue is sung (or the art form that consists of such musicals; or describing something as related to that art form)
- 5 *I'm going to start **rationing** food right now.*
 - A. restricting the amount of something each person can have -- such as food or gasoline when there is a shortage
 - B. treating something in an educated, intellectual way -- often excluding emotional or practical considerations
 - C. "spiritual renewing" a person in a Christian ceremony OR initiating or purifying by a challenging experience
- 6 *I'm a **botanist** and mechanical engineer; basically, the mission's fix-it man who played with plants.*
 - A. Middle Ages Europe: a person who is bound to the land and owned with the land by the feudal lord
 - B. the branch of biology that studies plants; or all the plant life in a particular region or period
 - C. a person who uses seemingly believable, but invalid arguments that display ingenuity in reasoning
- 7 ***Bacterial** activity, certain nutrients provided by animal life, etc. None of that is happening on Mars.*
 - A. the quality of being clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
 - B. related to microorganisms (living creatures so small it takes a microscope to see them)
 - C. the quality of not being clear, easily noticed, or identifiable as different or separate
- 8 *With a nearly infinite supply of vitamins, all I need are **calories** of any kind to survive.*
 - A. people that view history as class struggle and argue that capitalism will be replaced by communism
 - B. any of the Scandinavian peoples who raided the coasts of Europe from the 8th to the 11th centuries
 - C. a unit of energy most commonly known as a measure of potential weight gain the body gets from food
- 9 *Normally, it takes at least 90 days to **yield** full-sized potatoes.*
 - A. produce
 - B. stop (something from happening)
 - C. think deeply or carefully about
- 10 *As she entered the latitude and **longitude** of the image, she recognized the numbers.*
 - A. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - B. a measure of east/west (relative to the Prime Meridian) on the earth
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 11 *So after autodeploying, they **detached** themselves from the rovers and lined up next to each other twenty meters away?*
 - A. separated OR emotionally uninvolved (separated from emotions)
 - B. pointed to differences between; or compared to show differences
 - C. legally ordered to provide documents, or to appear as a witness

- 12 *I can't promise we'll succeed in rescuing him, but I can promise this: The entire **focus** of NASA will be to bring Mark Watney home.*
- A. calculating or judging too high
 - B. place where attention is directed
 - C. the ability to take on or adopt
- 13 ***Focus on the task at hand.***
- A. concentrate
 - B. make one's home in; or live in; or stay (in a place)
 - C. a real estate loan; or pledging something for a loan
- 14 ***Another incremental test, we think.***
- A. able to be protected or kept unchanged
 - B. relating to progressive steps
 - C. able to accept as true (without proof)
- 15 ***It takes eight months to get a probe to Mars in the best of times.***
- A. an unmanned spacecraft used for exploration
 - B. to change to multiple areas of control or concentration (rather than just 1)
 - C. a woman who is casually playful in a way that arouses sexual interest of men
- 16 ***I was really hoping I'd wake up to a functional lander, but no such luck.***
- A. working
 - B. the state or degree of agreeing or approving
 - C. exceedingly important, serious, or dangerous
- 17 ***All onboard computers could control all ships' functions.***
- A. adjusts a lens to make an image clear
 - B. operations (jobs)
 - C. suggestions that someone was involved
- 18 ***She says it'll keep me tethered to humanity.***
- A. held together (connected or united) or wrapped
 - B. considered (for affect on a result or outcome)
 - C. tied so as to limit the boundaries of movement
- 19 ***The critical components are designed to survive a vacuum.***
- A. intangible (non-touchable) properties that are the result of creativity (such as patents or trademarks or copyrights)
 - B. parts
 - C. things that are different than others of their type (synonyms could include: adaptations, versions, alternate forms)
- 20 ***We have flammables and pure oxygen.***
- A. interactions or interests
 - B. things easily set on fire
 - C. Islamic religious leaders

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	ion	Used 9 times in this book.
2	A	breach	Used 33 times in this book.
3	C	copious	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
4	A	redundant	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
5	A	ration	Used 19 times in this book.
6	B	botany	Used 24 times in this book.
7	B	bacteria	Used 23 times in this book.
8	C	calorie	Used 26 times in this book.
9	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	longitude	Used 10 times in this book.
11	A	detach	Used 22 times in this book.
12	B	focus (<i>as in: The focus of our study is...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	A	focus (<i>as in: Turn your focus to question #2.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	B	increment	Used 3 times in this book.
15	A	probe	Used 81 times in this book.
16	A	function (<i>as in: can't function well without sleep</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	B	function (<i>as in: Its main function is to...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	C	tether	Used 27 times in this book.
19	B	component	High-utility academic word; used 19 times in this book.
20	B	flammable	Used 6 times in this book.