

The Martian Chronicles

by Ray Bradbury

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

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

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: bewilder, blasphemy, bronze (2), census, continuous, dwindle, eminent, evolve (2), incredulous, inquire, meteor, nevertheless, pendulum, proprietor, psychotic, sensual, serene, telepathy



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Martian Chronicles

by Ray Bradbury

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

Vocabulary Preview
The Martian Chronicles

by Ray Bradbury

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. I am trying to understand her, but I am **bewildered**.
 - A. confused
 - B. bored
 - C. distracted
2. Even in the 21st century, high school teachers in the country are still occasionally imprisoned and/or lashed for **blasphemy**.
 - A. disrespect of something considered sacred
 - B. a dispute where there is strong disagreement
 - C. a serious logical error
3. She approached the impressive **bronze** doors.
 - A. made of a high-quality wood
 - B. notably large and appearing heavy
 - C. made of a type of high-quality metal
4. I saw her **bronze** hair.
 - A. reddish-brown or yellowish-brown
 - B. curly
 - C. straight
5. It is difficult to count all the homeless when performing the **census**.
 - A. voter survey
 - B. population count
 - C. tax audit
6. Alternating walk and rest was more beneficial than continuous walking for people with Type 2 diabetes.
 - A. occasional
 - B. scheduled
 - C. uninterrupted
7. As winter continued, the family's supply of firewood began to **dwindle**.
 - A. suddenly improve
 - B. remain unchanged
 - C. gradually decrease
8. Despite her **eminent** status in the art world, she remained humble and approachable.
 - A. respected and well-known
 - B. newly acquired
 - C. barely noticed
9. Fans have enjoyed watching the characters **evolve** for over a decade now.
 - A. gradually develop
 - B. dramatic reactions
 - C. battle
10. Different mutations had occurred in the isolated populations that **evolved** in different cave systems.
 - A. migrated to live
 - B. changed through evolution
 - C. lived for many years
11. At first, she was **incredulous**--thinking the report was in error.
 - A. worried
 - B. confused
 - C. without belief

12. I am here to **inquire** about the job.
- A. answer questions
 - B. ask about
 - C. perform a task
13. We were away from the city lights where **meteors** are easier to see.
- A. low clouds
 - B. shooting stars
 - C. tall trees
14. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
15. The clock's **pendulum** swung steadily from side to side.
- A. fixed support
 - B. swinging weight
 - C. measuring mark
16. After 40 years of greeting guests in person, the **proprietor** of the restaurant is retiring.
- A. customer
 - B. employee
 - C. owner
17. During the episode, he became **psychotic** and could not tell what was real.
- A. angry without reason
 - B. detached from reality
 - C. unusually anxious
18. She enjoyed the **sensual** pleasure of the warm sun on her skin.
- A. pleasing the body's senses
 - B. exciting the mind's intellect
 - C. deep empathetic understanding
19. She remained **serene** even when he was yelling at her.
- A. unmoved
 - B. calm
 - C. aggressive
20. Though popular in fiction, **telepathy** does not exist in the real world.
- A. communication from one mind to another without using the known senses
 - B. improperly bold or disrespectful -- especially toward someone who is older or considered to be of higher status
 - C. unsophisticated (meant disapprovingly to refer to old-fashioned or narrow-minded attitudes and ideas)

Vocabulary in Context

The Martian Chronicles

by Ray Bradbury

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 **Telepathy**, I suppose.
A. communication from one mind to another without using the known senses (often used in fiction but not scientifically supported as real)
B. lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
C. when what happens is very different than what might be expected; or when things are together that seem like they don't belong together
- 2 ...musicians made a **serene** music flow up like blossom scent on the still air.
A. not straightforward
B. calm and untroubled
C. not done on purpose
- 3 The man was still there, trying to smile, looking **bewildered**.
A. confused
B. restored
C. collided
- 4 The little town was full of people drifting in and out of doors, saying hello to one another, wearing golden masks and blue masks and crimson masks for pleasant variety, masks with silver lips and **bronze** eyebrows, masks that smiled or masks that frowned, according to the owners' dispositions.
A. a brownish color (like the metal of the same name)
B. view in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
C. not feeling or showing sympathy for another's suffering
- 5 The Leader stood before Sam and Elma, his mask beaten of polished **bronze**,
A. examine in detail to better understand
B. appropriate in size, amount, or degree
C. made of a type of high-quality metal
- 6 This is the most incredible example of **sensual** hallucination and hypnotic suggestion I've ever encountered.
A. relating to pleasing the body's senses
B. exciting the mind's intellectual vigor
C. a deep sense of empathetic understanding
- 7 Do you think that the civilizations of two planets can progress at the same rate and **evolve** in the same way, Hinkston?
A. develop
B. pessimistic or disagreeable
C. cover up (a wrong or error)
- 8 Think of the thousands of years it takes to **evolve** plants.
A. interact again or interest again
B. gradually develop a new species through evolution
C. create, start, or set in a place
- 9 A robin sat on a blossoming apple tree and sang **continuously**.
A. in a manner that serves to help explain or demonstrate something
B. in a manner that tests someone or something for a period of time
C. continuing in time or space without interruption or irregularity
- 10 Are you **census** takers?
A. someone who expresses disapproval
B. an official count of a population
C. purpose, job, or natural activity
- 11 First a mild **neurosis** about it, then a full-fledged **psychosis**.
A. feeling or appraisal of having personally behaved in a morally right or wrong manner
B. any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted
C. related to the small gland at the base of the brain that controls many body hormones

- 12 *Tonight we should be glad we got across all that space without getting a **meteor** in our bulkhead or having one man of us die.*
- A. a solar flare
 - B. a streak of light in the sky caused by a small space rock burning up in Earth's atmosphere
 - C. a large space rock with an irregular orbit
- 13 *But it's chicken pox, **nevertheless**.*
- A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 14 *"And these Martians are a found people?" **inquired** the captain.*
- A. limited or with boundaries
 - B. asked about or looked into
 - C. gradually added or removed
- 15 *a modern, **incredulous** world*
- A. not capable of being better understood through detailed examination
 - B. clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
 - C. unbelieving
- 16 *What **eminent** sociologists!*
- A. respected and famous or important
 - B. able to be stopped from happening
 - C. improper, awkward, or unfavorable
- 17 *It verges on--**blasphemy**.*
- A. disrespectful of something considered sacred
 - B. found a condition or substance to be present
 - C. Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
- 18 *The **pendulum** made a final stroke.*
- A. an inhabitant of Assyria -- an ancient kingdom centered in northern Mesopotamia which is in present-day Iraq; or their language
 - B. something that swings or shifts back and forth between two positions -- often seen in a swinging weight or in changing opinions
 - C. artist who belonged to an early 20th century art movement that expressed inner feelings through distorted renditions of reality
- 19 *November 2005: THE LUGGAGE STORE It was a very remote thing, when the luggage-store **proprietor** heard the news on the night radio, received all the way from Earth on a light-sound beam.*
- A. interaction or interest
 - B. a subtle characteristic
 - C. the owner of a business
- 20 *They **dwindled** down to a couple in the last few years.*
- A. disagreed
 - B. separated
 - C. decreased

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Martian Chronicles

by Ray Bradbury

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	telepathy	Used 11 times in this book.
2	B	serene	Used 4 times in this book.
3	A	bewilder	Used 4 times in this book.
4	A	bronze (<i>as in: a bronze tan</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	C	bronze (<i>as in: bronze won't corrode in salt water</i>)	Used 9 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
6	A	sensual	Used 4 times in this book.
7	A	evolve (<i>as in: the policy evolved</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	evolve (<i>as in: evolved through natural selection</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	C	continuous	Used 3 times in this book.
10	B	census	Used 2 times in this book.
11	B	psychotic	Used 6 times in this book.
12	B	meteor	Used 3 times in this book.
13	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
14	B	inquire	Used 6 times in this book.
15	C	incredulous	Used 4 times in this book.
16	A	eminent	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
17	A	blasphemy	Used 2 times in this book.
18	B	pendulum	Used 3 times in this book.
19	C	proprietor	Used 8 times in this book.
20	C	dwindle	Used 5 times in this book.