

Lesson 13: The Martian colony

Main activity 2

What did we get wrong in 1912?

Fill in this assessment sheet.

Mars Fact	What we thought in 1912	What we think now
Water on Mars	There is water on Mars because there are ice caps and canals	There is no liquid water on Mars at the moment
Temperature on Mars		Mars is very cold, about as cold as a freezer on average
Life on Mars		
The ice caps	Made out of ice - what else could it be!	
The "canals"		Don't exist*

* Schiaparelli made a mistake and Lovell convinced himself he could see what Schiaparelli had seen.

1. Give an example of a mistake the 1912 scientists made because the evidence they had was wrong.

2. Give an example of a mistake they made because they made an assumption they couldn't prove.

3. Were Lovell and Schiaparelli good scientists? Explain what you think.