

READ THE PASSAGE Stop after each paragraph and ask yourself questions about the information.

Marvelous Machines

Not so long ago, robots were machines seen only in movies. Today, robots are used all around the world. A robot is a special type of machine that can do some of the things a human can do. People invent robots in all shapes and sizes. No matter what they look like, all robots have a computer inside them. All robots can do two things. They can get information and they can move.

More and more robots are being invented. Some robots help people do tasks. Robots drill holes, spray paint, and put together cars. Robots help doctors perform operations. Robots drive trains and clean carpets.

Robots also go to places that are too dangerous for humans. Robots crawl through live volcanoes. They take samples of gases and examine the rocks. Robots dive deep into the oceans. They inspect strange sea creatures and collect items that have fallen to the ocean floor. Getting to Mars is not yet possible for astronauts, but robots have landed there. They collected rocks and took pictures.

SKILL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

1. What three facts apply to all robots?

2. How have robots helped humans learn more about science? Why?

3. What prediction can you make about robots in the future?

STRATEGY PRACTICE What question did you ask yourself about the third paragraph?
