

# MARS

## The Red Planet

Distance From Sun  
129,039 Mil

Length Of Year  
687 Earth Days

One Way Light Time  
To The Sun  
11.545 Mins



Planet Type  
Terrestrial

## 10 Need-to-Know Things About Mars

1

### SMALL PLANET

If the Sun were as tall as a typical front door, Earth would be the size of a dime, and Mars would be about as big as an aspirin tablet.

2

### FOURTH ROCK

Mars orbits our Sun, a star. Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun at an average distance of about 228 million km (142 million miles) or 1.52 AU.

3

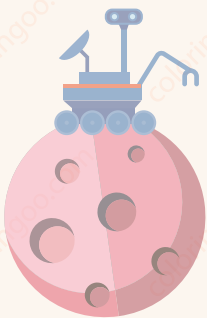
### LONGER DAYS

One day on Mars takes a little over 24 hours. Mars makes a complete orbit around the Sun (a year in Martian time) in 687 Earth days.

4

### RUGGED TERRAIN

Mars is a rocky planet. Its solid surface has been altered by volcanoes, impacts, winds, crustal movement and chemical reactions.



5

### BRING A SPACESUIT

Mars has a thin atmosphere made up mostly of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), argon (Ar), nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>), and a small amount of oxygen and water vapor.

6

### TWO MOONS

Mars has two moons named Phobos and Deimos.

7

### RINGLESS

There are no rings around Mars.

8

### MANY MISSIONS

Several missions have visited this planet, from flybys and orbiters to rovers on the surface. The first true Mars mission success was the Mariner 4 flyby in 1965.

9

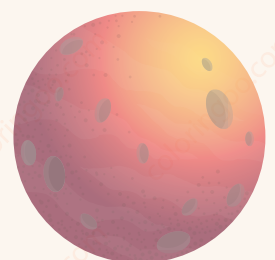
### TOUGH PLACE FOR LIFE

At this time, Mars' surface cannot support life as we know it. Current missions are determining Mars' past and future potential for life.

10

### RUSTY PLANET

Mars is known as the Red Planet because iron minerals in the Martian soil oxidize, or rust, causing the soil and atmosphere to look red.



Source: nasa.gov