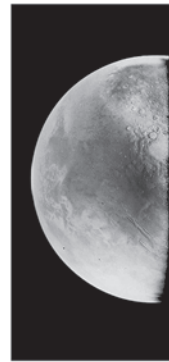


Summary Information Sheet

MARS

Mars, the fourth planet from the Sun, is named after the Roman god of war. Mars is known as the red planet because red iron-oxide dust and rocks cover its surface. Mars is more Earth-like than any other body in the Solar system.



Temperature ~ -55°C
min. -133°C, max. +27°C

North polar ice cap
(frozen carbon dioxide and water ice)

Permanently frozen soil

Crust, 40-50 km thick

Northern hemisphere with many vast plains like Lunae Planum formed of solidified lava

Mantle of silicate rock
~1500 km thick

Solid iron-rich core
radius ~1700km

Dust storm more than 120 km/hr

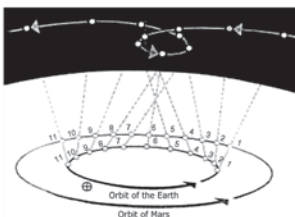
Olympus Mons

Old dried-up river systems = arroyos

One revolution around the Sun lasts 687 Earth days

Valles Marineris canyon system, ten times longer and four times deeper than the Grand Canyon in the USA

Condensation clouds



Dry, thin and cold atmosphere
95% CO₂,
2,7% N,
1,6% Ar

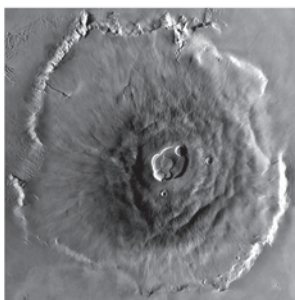
Huge vulcanos

Southern hemisphere pitted with craters and large impact basins

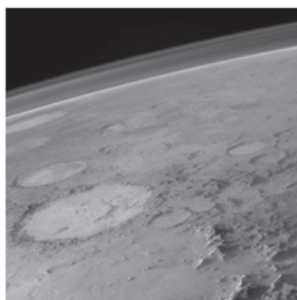
South polar ice cap
Both caps shrink during the martian summer

Inclination of the Equator to orbital plane 25°11'

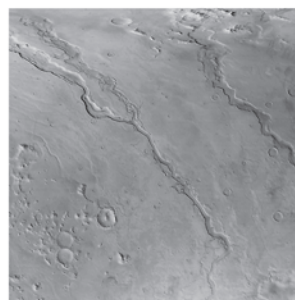
Mars loops in the sky



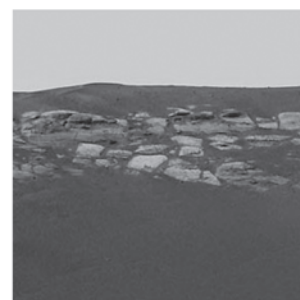
Olympus Mons



Cratered terrain and reddish atmosphere



Old dried-up river bed = arroyo



Surface seen by SPIRIT 2004

Physical Data

Property
Distance from the Sun
Rotation period
Equatorial radius
Mass
Density
Satellites

Mars
228 million km
24 hrs 37 min
3397 km
6.42×10^{23} kg
3940 kg/m^3
2

For comparison

Moon
150 million km
27 days 8 hrs
1738 km
7.35×10^{22} kg
3340 kg/m^3
0

Earth
150 million km
23 hrs 56 min
6378 km
5.97×10^{24} kg
5520 kg/m^3
1