Mars

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Basic Facts

* Mars was named after a Roman god of war, and the planet was named after him because Mars appears red, therefore symbolizes blood.
* Mars is referred to as the “badge of blood in the sky” and stands for all gods of war.
* It is the fourth planet from the sun.
* It is often referred to as the “Red Planet” although really its color is a brownish one.
* It appears red because of its surface is iron oxide. Iron oxide is an inorganic compound and it has a reddish brown color.
* Mars has two moons, Phobos and Deimos, which are thought to be captured asteroids. They were both discovered in 1877.
* The names of the two moons come from Book XV of the Iliad, in which the god Ares summons Dread (Deimos) and Fear (Phobos).
* Tycho Brahe was a Danish astronomer was the first one to spot and locate Mars in 1576. German astronomer Johannes Kepler decided its orbit was elliptical. Gallileo included Mars in his theory that the planets revolve around the sun. Christian Huygens, a Dutch astronomer, drew Mars using a telescope in 1659
* In 1971, Mariner 9 visited Mars and sent back images for the first time.
* Mars’s symbol looks like the hat that the Roman god used to wear.
* Like Earth, Mars has seasons, polar ice caps, volcanoes, canyons and weather.
* Mars has ice caps at both its north and south poles.
* Because a year on Mars lasts twice as long as a year on Earth, the Martian seasons are twice as long as well.
* Its atmosphere is too thin for liquid water to exist for long on the surface.
* There are signs of ancient floods on Mars, but evidence for water now exists mainly in icy soil and thin clouds.
* Mars’s tilt is quite similar to the Earth’s.
* The Red Planet is substantially exposed to the harshest elements of *space weather*. Unlike Earth, which sits inside the magnetosphere, Mars does not have a global magnetic field to protect it from solar flares and cosmic rays.
* Mars exploration has occurred in the stages, namely fly-bys, orbiters and landers and rovers.
* There are three missions currently on Mars: Spirit, Opportunity, and Pathfinder.
* Only one of them is still in function.

Statistics

* It is 228 million kilometers away from the sun, and 54.6 million kilometers away from Earth.
* It is half of Earth’s diameter.
* It is 11% of Earth’s mass.
* Orbit Size around sun: 227,943,824 km
* Volume: 163,115,609,799 km3
* Mass: 641,693,000,000,000,000,000,000 kg
* Density: 3.934 g/cm3
* Surface Area: 144,371,391 km2
* Mars' rotation period is 24 hours 39 minutes and 35 seconds.
* Mars’s revolution period is of 686.971(Earth) days
* Winters are insanely cold, with temperatures dropping to -125 °C