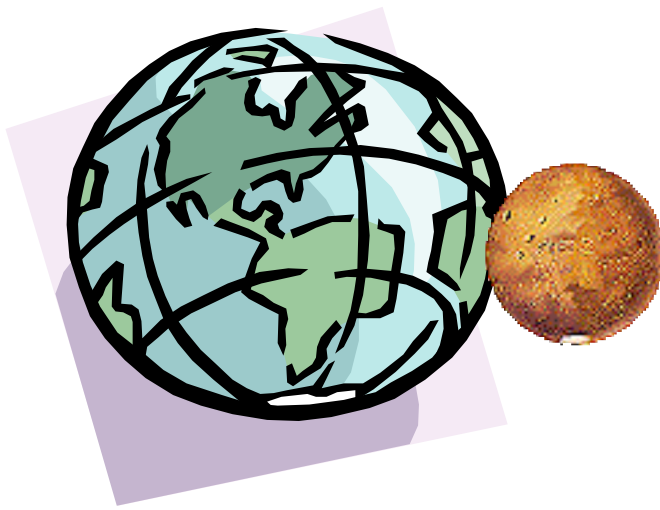


MARS FACTS

Planet Size

The Earth is a much larger planet than Mars. The Earth is nearly twice the size of the red planet.

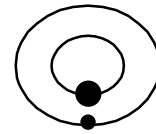


Atmospheric Composition

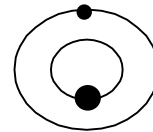
The air of Mars is mainly carbon dioxide (95%). Only 0.1% of the atmosphere is oxygen. Earth's air is 21% oxygen, 0.035% carbon dioxide and 78% nitrogen.

Distance Between

Mars and Earth are about 35,000,000 miles apart at their closest distance. That's about 56,000,000 kilometers.



When the two planets are furthest apart the distance is about 250,000,000 miles or 399,000,000 kilometers!



Dust Storms

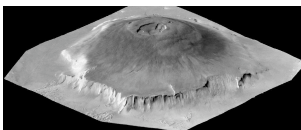
A typical dust storm on Mars is 200-660 m in diameter and 1-3 km tall. Dust storms on Mars can last from 2 hours to 2 years! Intense dust storms on Mars can block out much of the light from the Sun, so it is very difficult to see.

Traveling to Mars

Because of the great distance, a trip to Mars would take 6-9 months.

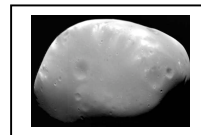
Olympus Mons

Olympus Mons is the largest volcano on Mars and in the entire solar system. It is approximately 16 miles high and 370 miles across.



Mars Moons

Mars has two moons, Phobos and Deimos.



The moons are probably captured asteroids from the asteroid belt that lies between Mars and Jupiter.

Valles Marineris

Valles Marineris is the largest canyon system in the solar system. The canyon is 2500 miles long and can be 6 miles deep!