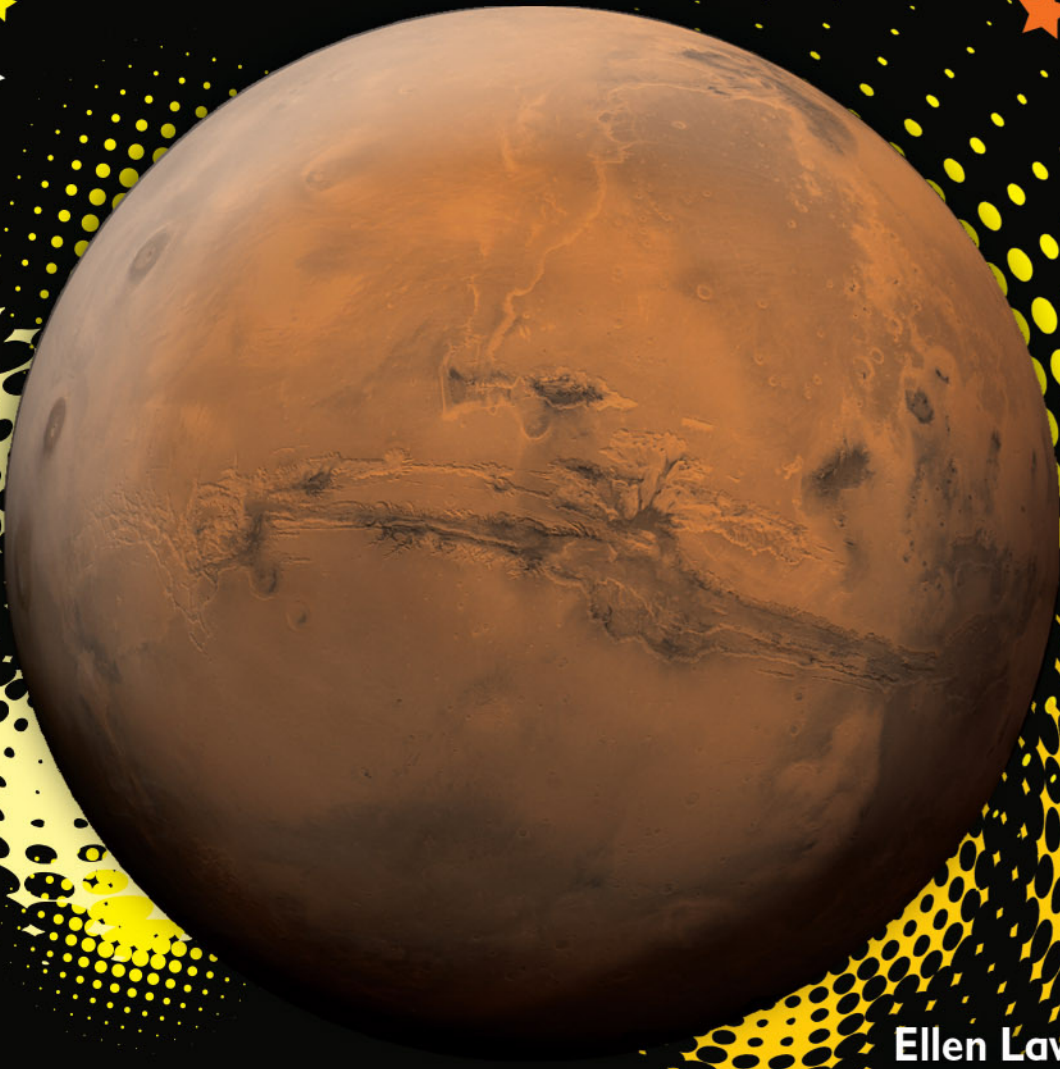




MARS

The Dusty Planet



Ellen Lawrence

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MARS

The Dusty Planet

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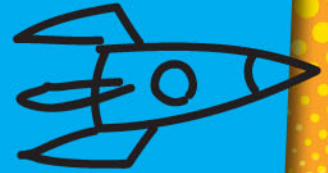
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Contents



Welcome to Mars.....	4
The Solar System.....	6
Mars' Amazing Journey.....	8
A Closer Look at Mars.....	10
Solar System Record Breakers	12
Mars' Tiny Companions.....	14
A Mission to Mars	16
The Robotic Rover.....	18
Mars Fact File.....	20
Get Crafty: Build a Robot Explorer.....	22
Glossary	23
Index	24
Read More.....	24
Learn More Online.....	24

Words shown in **bold** in the text are explained in the glossary.





Welcome to Mars



You are millions of miles from Earth.

Beneath your feet, the ground is dusty and reddish-brown.

The sky is pinkish-orange.

Icy winds are blowing, and it's colder than the North Pole in December.

You look around and see mountains that are many miles high.

Welcome to the **planet** Mars!

No humans have actually visited Mars, but robots have. This picture of Mars was taken by a robot called *Opportunity*.



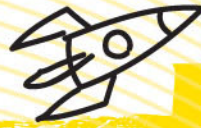
Pinkish-orange sky

A mountain

The surface of Mars

The **soil** on Mars looks red because it contains lots of **rust**.

The Solar System



Mars is moving through space at nearly 54,000 miles per hour (87,000 km/h).

It is moving in a big circle around the Sun.

Mars is one of eight planets circling the Sun.

The planets are Mercury, Venus, our home planet Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

Icy **comets** and large rocks, called **asteroids**, are also moving around the Sun.

Together, the Sun, the planets, and other space objects are called the **solar system**.

Most of the asteroids in the solar system are in a ring called the asteroid belt.



An asteroid

The Solar System

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun.



The solar system is also home to Pluto and other small objects, called **dwarf planets**.

Index

A

asteroids 6–7, 9

C

canyons 12

comets 6–7

Curiosity rover 16–17,
18–19

D

Deimos 14–15, 21

E

Earth 4, 6–7, 8–9, 10,
12, 14, 16–17, 19, 20

M

moons 14–15, 21

mountains 4–5, 12–13

O

Olympus Mons 12–13

Opportunity 4

P

Phobos 14–15, 21

planets 4, 6–7, 8, 12, 20

R

robots and rovers 4,
16–17, 18–19

S

size of Mars 10, 20

sky 4–5, 10

solar system 6–7,
12, 20

speed 6, 21

Sun, the 6–7, 8–9, 13,
14, 20–21

T

temperatures 4, 21

V

Valles Marineris 12

W

wind 4, 10

Y

years 8, 21

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Learn More Online

To learn more about Mars, go to
www.rubytuesdaybooks.com/mars

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MARS

The Dusty Planet

Millions of miles from Earth, a cold, dusty world circles the Sun. The sky looks pink, and the ground is red.

This planet is home to one of the solar system's biggest volcanoes and deepest canyons.

Welcome to Mars!

Titles in this series

COMETS, METEORS, AND ASTEROIDS

Voyagers of the Solar System

EARTH

Our Home in the Solar System

JUPITER

The Giant of the Solar System

MARS

The Dusty Planet

MERCURY

The High-Speed Planet

THE MOON

Our Neighbor in Space

NEPTUNE

The Stormiest Planet

PLUTO

and the Dwarf Planets

SATURN

The Ringed Wonder

THE SUN

The Star of Our Solar System

URANUS

The Sideways-Spinning Planet

VENUS

The Hot and Toxic Planet

