

IT'S A FACT!

Real-Life
Reads

ROBOTS IN SPACE



by Ruth Owen

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Ruby Tuesday Books



Published in 2015 by Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd.

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Editor: Mark J. Sachner

Designer: Emma Randall

Production: John Lingham

Photo Credits:

ESA–A. Le Floc'h: 29 (top); ESA: 29 (bottom); NASA: Cover, 4–5, 7 (bottom), 8–9, 10–11, 12–13, 14–15, 16–17, 18–19, 20–21, 22–23, 25, 27, 28 (Matt Deans), 31; NOAA: 6; Thermite by Howe and Howe Technologies: 7 (top).

Library of Congress Control Number: 2013920125

ISBN 978-1-909673-49-6

Printed and published in the United States of America

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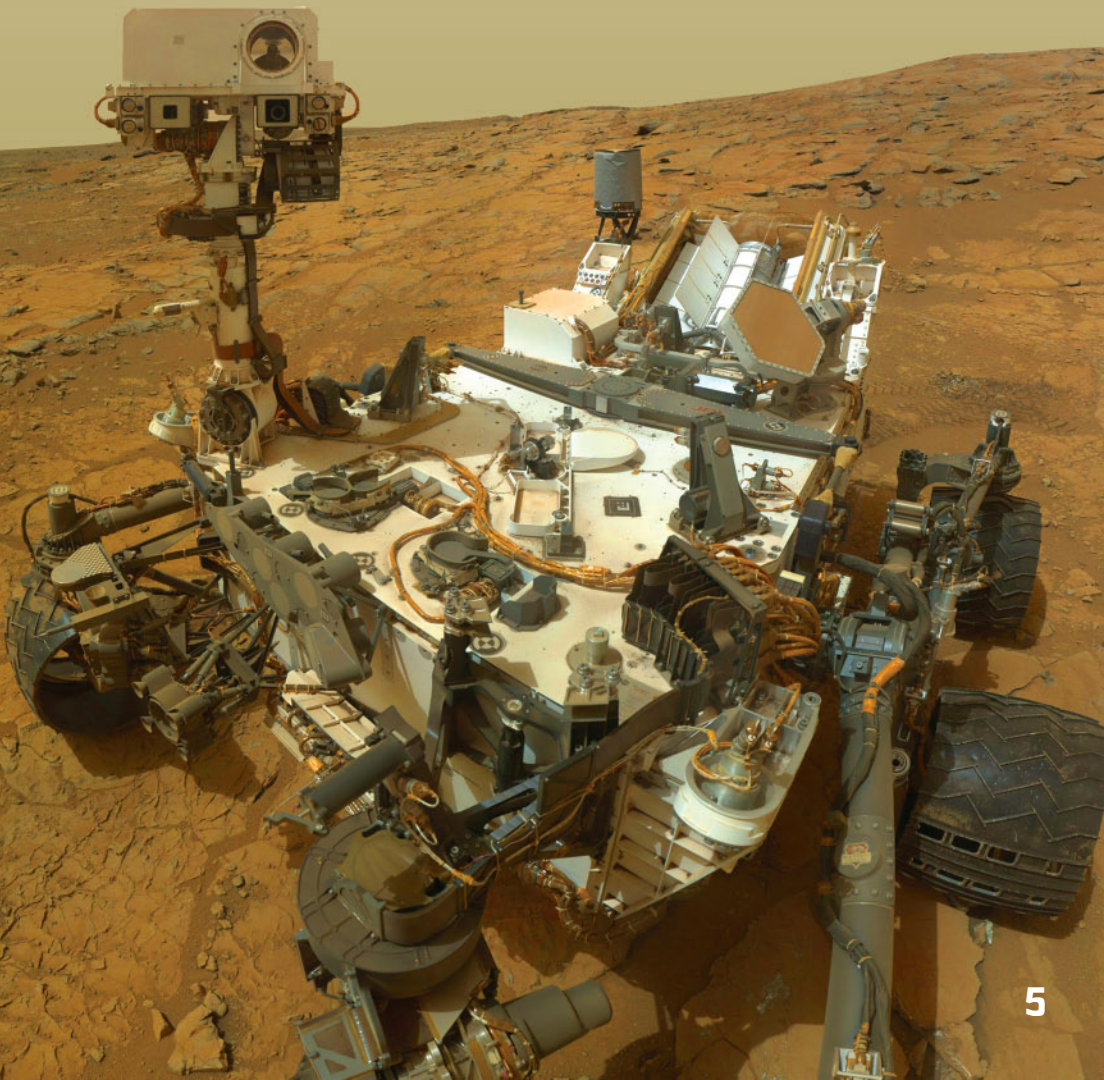
Life on Mars

The Sun is rising. It's morning on Mars. Millions of miles from Earth, a hardworking member of **NASA's** team begins its day.

The temperature is colder than the North Pole in December. Fierce winds are blowing. The air is made up of poisonous gases. These dangers do not harm the busy worker, though. That's because it is a **robot**.

Even a robot can take selfies! *Curiosity* sends photos of itself back to Earth. This allows the scientists who control *Curiosity* to make sure it's in good shape.

The robot's name is *Curiosity*, and its job is to study Mars. It would be very dangerous for a human scientist to do this work. For a robot, however, working in this extreme place is not a problem.

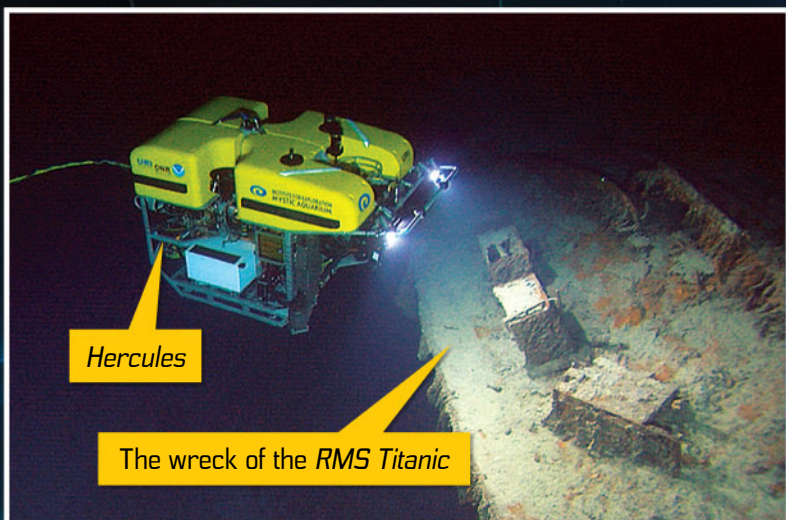


What Is a Robot?

A robot is a machine that can do jobs. Often a robot does work that is too dangerous for a person to do.

Some robots explore shipwrecks, while others fight fires. In space, robots can repair spacecraft, explore, and even do experiments.

Inside a robot, there is a computer that acts a little like a brain. A person uploads instructions to the robot's computer brain. Then the robot carries out the instructions. Once they have their instructions, some robots can work on their own for days, months, or even years. Other robots need a human operator to control every move they make.



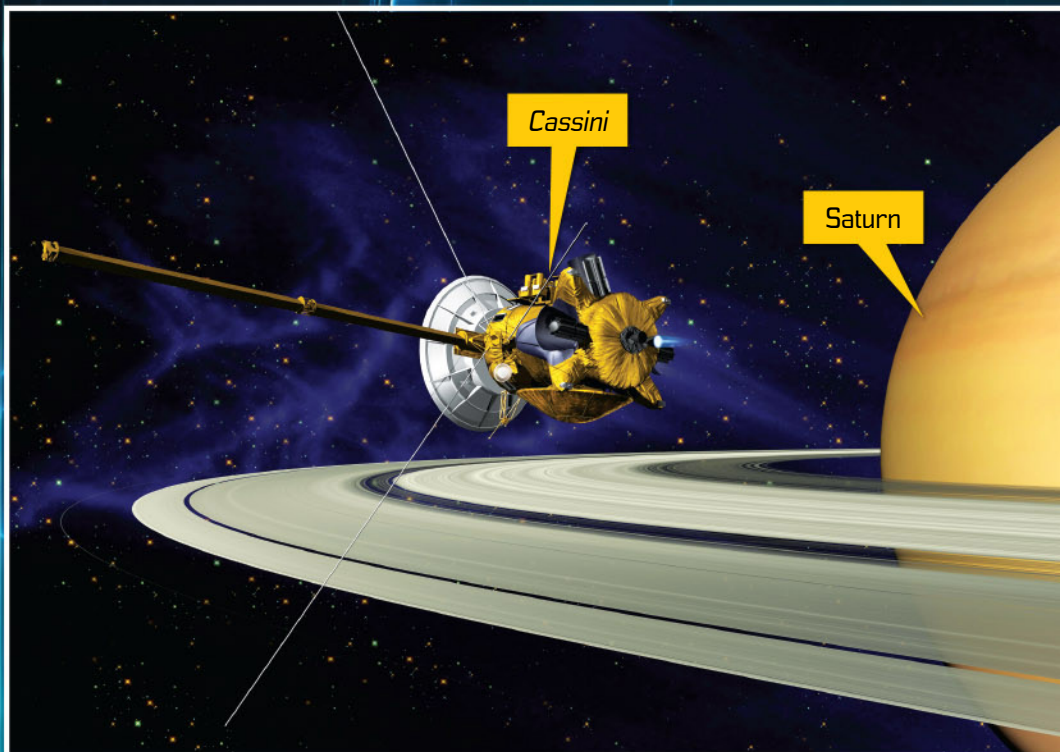
Hercules

The wreck of the *RMS Titanic*

Hercules is a robot that can explore shipwrecks. It takes photos and makes videos. It can do this work up to 2.5 miles (4 km) under the ocean.



This robot fights fires that are too dangerous for a human firefighter to approach.



This illustration shows the space probe *Cassini*. This robot is studying Saturn.

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Read More

Shulman, Mark, and James Buckley Jr. *Robots (Time For Kids Explorers)*. New York: Time For Kids Books (2014).

Stewart, Melissa. *Robots (National Geographic Readers)*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Children's Books (2014).

Learn More Online

To learn more about robots in space, go to
www.rubytuesdaybooks.com/robots

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Join *Curiosity* the robot rover on its mission to find signs of life on Mars. And meet *Dextre* and *Robonaut*, the International Space Station's robot crew members. Robots can fix spacecraft, carry out experiments, and even explore distant planets. If there's dangerous work to be done in space, it's a job for a robot!

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