

IT'S A FACT!

Real-Life
Reads

LIVING ON MARS



by Ruth Owen

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Ruby Tuesday Books



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Explorers and Settlers

Throughout human history, people have been explorers and settlers.

We have explored jungles and climbed mountains. We have traveled long distances to find new places to live. We haven't only explored our home **planet**. Astronauts blasted off from Earth to explore the Moon. Today, astronauts even live in space aboard the International Space Station, or ISS.



Scientists on Earth work with the astronauts aboard the ISS. Together, they study what happens to people when they live in space.



So what's next? The answer is to explore and settle on another planet. The most likely planet for humans to visit is Mars. Around the world, scientists are working on plans to send astronauts to this faraway world. One day, humans might even live on Mars!

Mars TO DO list

Scientists and engineers have a lot to figure out before humans can visit Mars.

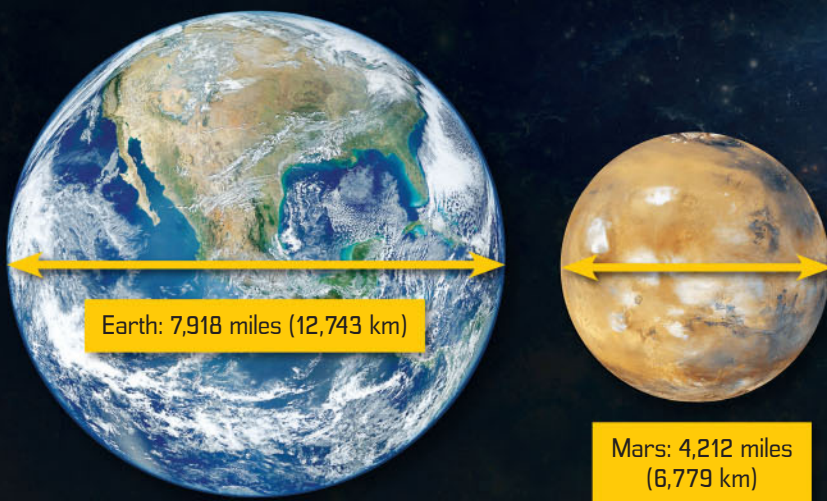
- Design a spacecraft
- Design a protective spacesuit
 - Design a Mars home
- Invent a way to get oxygen
- Invent a way to get water
- Figure out how to grow food
 - Design Mars vehicles
- Invent ways to get fuel and energy
 - Choose and train astronauts

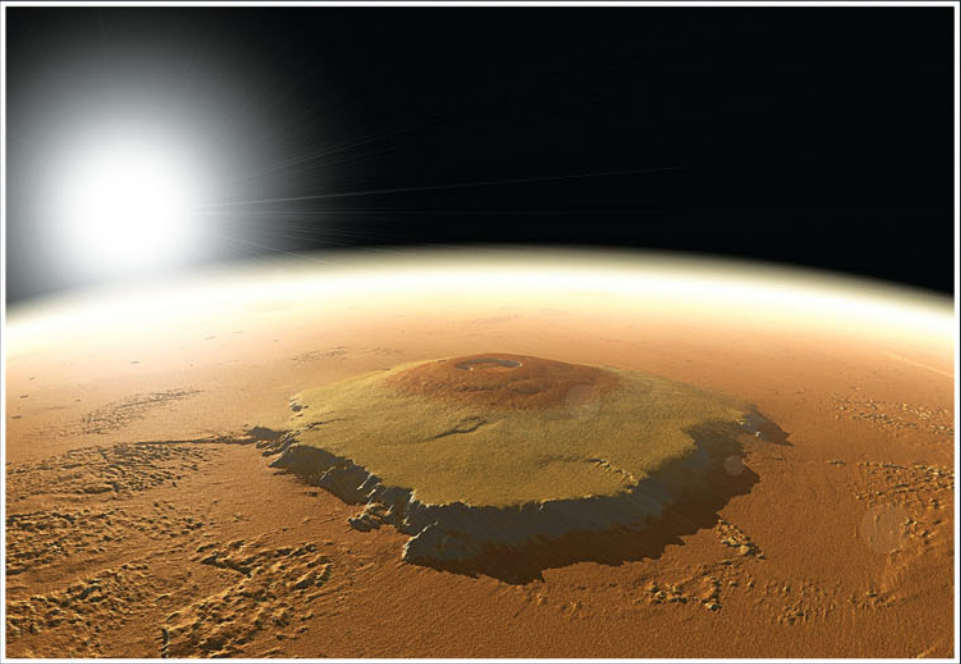
Welcome to Mars

Mars is one of Earth's closest neighbors in space. It's still a very long way away, though!

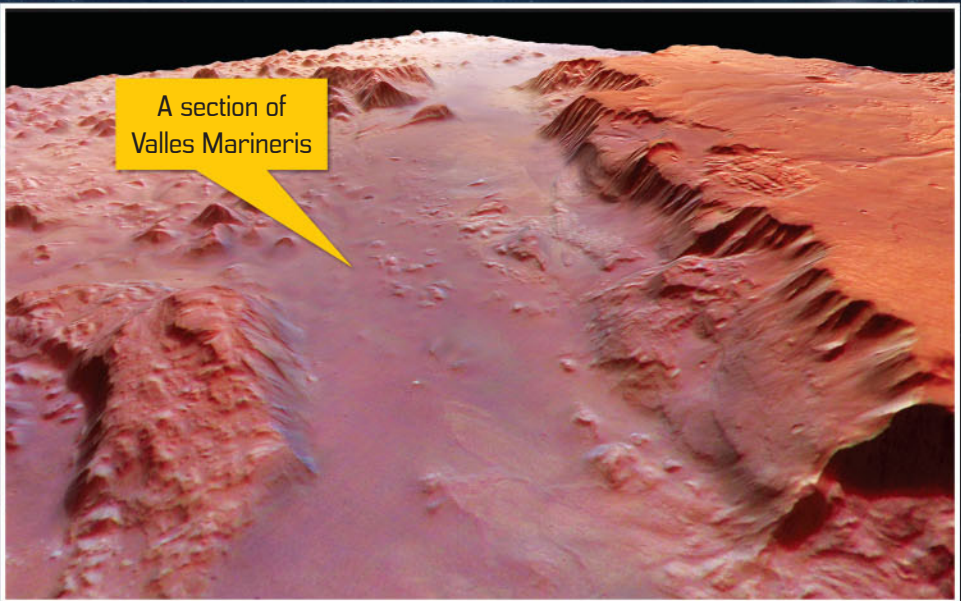
The closest Earth and Mars ever get is 35 million miles (56 million km) apart. Usually, however, the two planets are much farther apart. Earth and Mars are both **orbiting**, or moving around, the Sun. Each planet is moving on its own pathway, though. So the distance between the two planets changes all the time.

The surface of Mars looks like a dusty, rocky desert. The soil is reddish-brown because it contains lots of rust. The red soil gives Mars its nickname of the Red Planet. There are no oceans, lakes, or rivers on Mars. There is frozen water on the planet, though.





Mars is home to a giant volcano called Olympus Mons.
It is 14 miles (22.5 km) high.



A section of
Valles Marineris

Mars has a canyon called Valles Marineris. It is eight times
longer and three times deeper than the Grand Canyon.

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Read More

Lawrence, Ellen. *Mars: The Dusty Planet (Zoom Into Space)*. New York: Ruby Tuesday Books (2014).

Nelson, Maria. *Life on the International Space Station (Extreme Jobs in Extreme Places)*. New York: Gareth Stevens Publishing (2013).

Learn More Online

To learn more about living on Mars, go to
www.rubytuesdaybooks.com/livingonmars

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LIVING ON MARS

One day in the future, humans will travel to Mars. In time, we may even settle there. What dangers will visitors to this extreme planet face? Where will Mars settlers live? How will they find water and grow food? And what will it be like to be one of the first humans living on Mars?

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