


Mars Fact Sheet


Read through the information on the fact sheet about Mars on Page 2 or research your own information online (search **Mars facts for children**). You can also watch the videos.

Draw an alien that would be able to survive on Mars. Think about what features the alien would need in order to survive and explain as in the example below:

Meet Mascus. He is a 73 year old alien from the planet Mars. Luckily for Mascus, he has a thick layer of blubber beneath his purple iridescent skin which keeps him warm in the -55°C temperatures that Mars has on average. Because the air is too thin to carry sound, he has no need for ears and therefore has none. To stop the dust storms blinding him, Mascus has 2 layers of lashes and a semi translucent shield that covers the eye's lens.



Below are key facts about Mars as well as some sentence openers which will help you explain the features of your alien.

<p>Average temperature - 55°C Weak gravity Air too thin to carry sound far Pink sky Extinct volcano 15 miles tall Highest mountain in whole solar system Frozen and dead! Massive dust storms 2 poles like Earth Frozen carbon dioxide and water Lots of volcanoes and canyons 2500 mile long canyons Ground has iron oxide in it - makes it red Vast sand dunes</p>	<p><u>Suggested sentence openers</u> To stop Mars's ... Luckily ... Because of Mars's ... Due to Mars's ... Fortunately ... Strangely ... Although there are huge dust storms, ... Despite the cold temperatures ... As the air is too thin to carry sound ... When it is ...</p> 
---	---

Think about your presentation and make this as neat as possible. Photograph your alien design and upload this to the website.

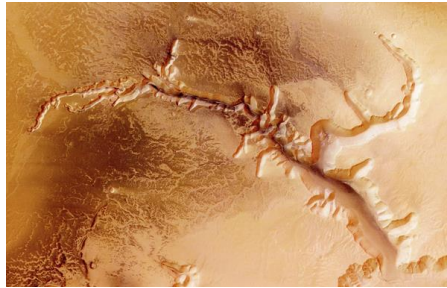
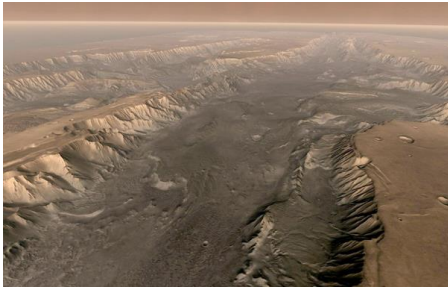
Mars Information

Watch these short videos about Mars:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z96mhyc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=toNCUIACYUI>

- 1) Named after the **Roman God of war**, Mars is the **fourth planet** from the sun in our **solar system**.
- 2) Mars is also known as the '**Red Planet**' because, well, it's red! This signature colour comes from the large amount of a chemical called **iron oxide** (or 'rust' as you might know it) in its rocks and soil.



- 3) Mars is the second smallest planet in the solar system after **Mercury**. With a diameter (distance through the middle) of **6,791 kilometres**, it's roughly **half the size of Earth**.
 - 4) It can get pretty cold on Mars — much **colder than our own planet**, since it's further away from the sun. At the equator, temperatures can reach **20°C** (similar to a sunny day back here on Earth), but at its poles they can plummet to as low as **-140°C**. *Brr!*
 - 5) Mars is home to the **highest mountain in our solar system** — a volcano called **Olympus Mons**. Standing a whopping **24 kilometres high**, it's about three times the height of Mount Everest!
- Did you know...? There are bits of Mars here on Earth! In the past, asteroids hit the Red Planet, sending debris into space. Some of this debris landed on our planet as meteorites.**
- 6) You could **jump around three times higher on Mars** than you can on Earth. *Boing!* This is because the planet's **gravity** – the force that keeps us on the ground – is much weaker.
 - 7) Do you like to look at the **moon** at night? Well, check this out — **Mars has two moons!** One is called **Phobos** and the other **Deimos**.
 - 8) A day on Mars is **24 hours and 37 minutes** — only a little bit longer than a day on our own planet. A year on Mars, however, is almost twice as long, lasting **687 Earth days!** This is because it takes a lot longer than Earth to complete its orbit around the Sun.
 - 9) Until recently, scientists believed that there was no liquid water on the surface of Mars — only rocks, soil dust and ice. But... News flash! In 2018, they found **evidence of a lake** under the planet's south polar ice cap. Exciting stuff!
 - 10) Humans have not yet been to Mars, but scientists have sent spacecraft there to help them research this fascinating planet. The first spacecraft to land on Mars were the **Viking Landers**, which touched down on the surface in **1976**. The most recent one was this weekend – watch the news clip below about this: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/56122698>