



Mars

- The ancient Roman's called this planet Mars and the ancient Greeks called it Ares. Mars/Ares were the names for the God of War. It was named after the God of War because of its blood red colour.
- Mars' orbit is 227,940,000 km (1.52 AU).
- It's year is 687 Earth days.
- One day on Mars is 24.6 hours or just slightly longer than an Earth day (about 40 minutes longer).
- Gravity on Mars is about 38% that of Earth's gravity. A 40kg person would weigh about 15kg.
- It's average temperature is -55 degrees Celsius. However, temperatures can vary from -133 degrees Celsius during winter at the North or South pole to +27 degrees Celsius during a summer day.
- Mars' thin atmosphere of mainly CO<sub>2</sub> is less than 1% the air pressure on Earth.
- Mars has permanent polar caps made of water ice and "dry ice", which is solid frozen carbon dioxide.
- Evidence of erosion from flowing water indicates that Mars used to have liquid water on it's surface.
- Mars used to be much more Earth-like with much more CO<sub>2</sub> in its atmosphere. This provided a greenhouse effect that made it much warmer than it is today. Much of the carbon got bound up in carbonate rocks. Since Mars doesn't have the plate tectonic process Earth has, it didn't recycle that rock and the carbon dioxide remained bound.
- Mars has only a weak magnetic field.
- Mars has two small moons. Phobos (which means "fear") has a diameter of about 22 km and Deimos (means "panic") has a diameter of about 12 km.