

Next Stop Mars

培生
英语阅读

下一站：火星

Next Stop Mars

朱迪·纳耶尔 著

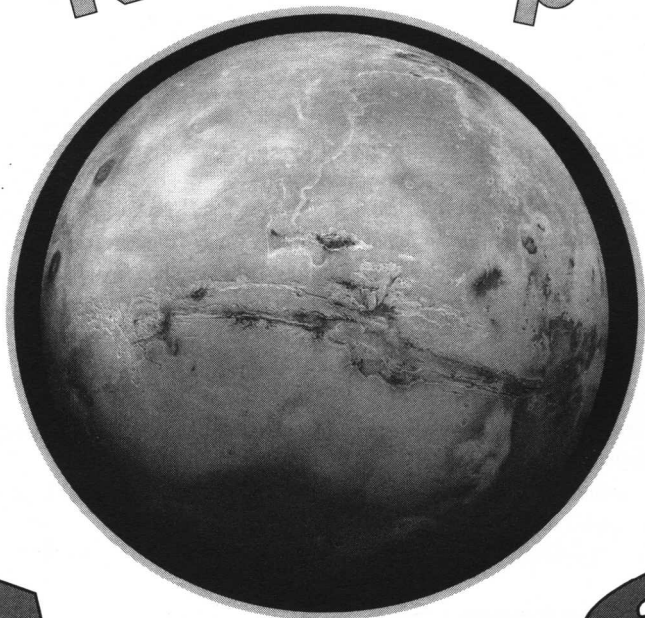
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Next Stop



MARS

By Judy Nayer

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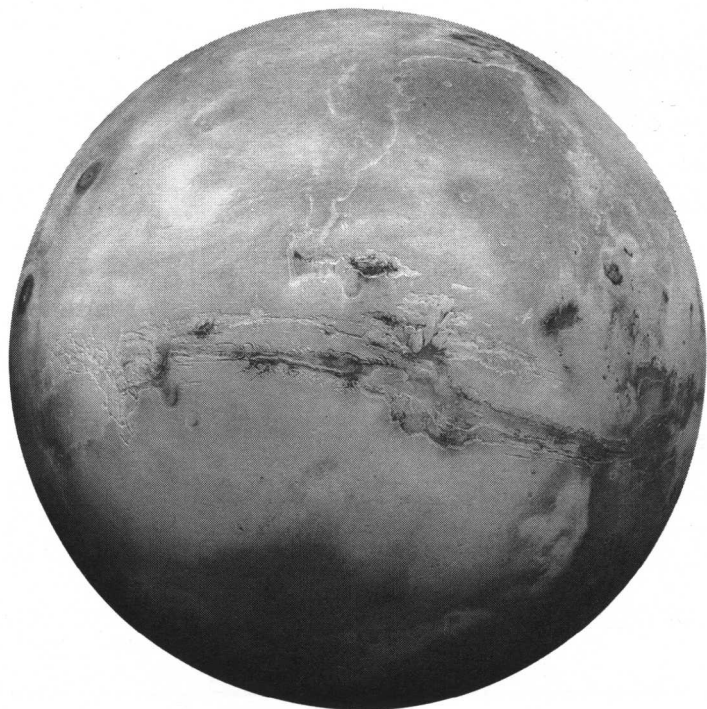
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**To those who risked their lives
to explore space**

Chapter 1

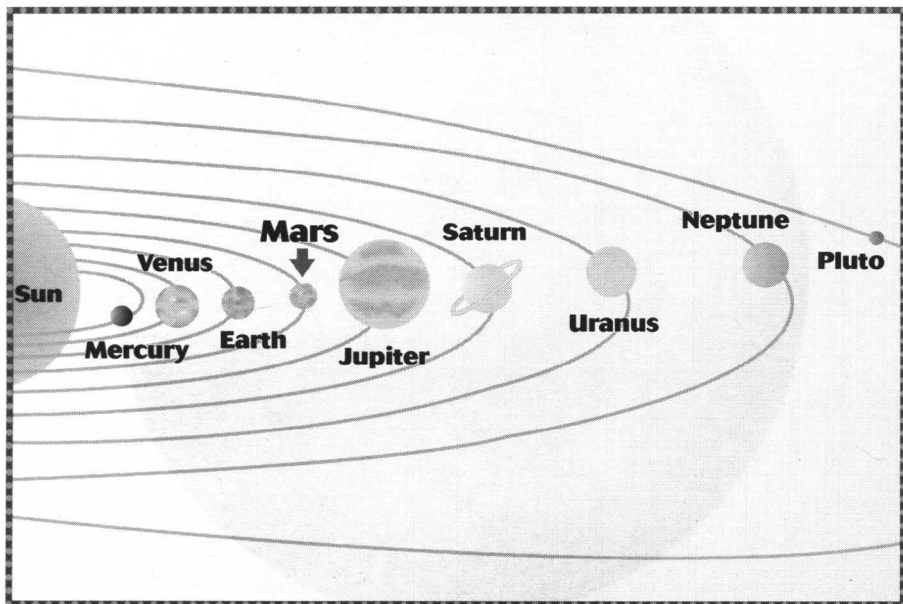
Neighbors in Space

On a clear night, look up at the sky. Look for a **glowing** red dot. It is not a star. It is a **planet** called Mars.

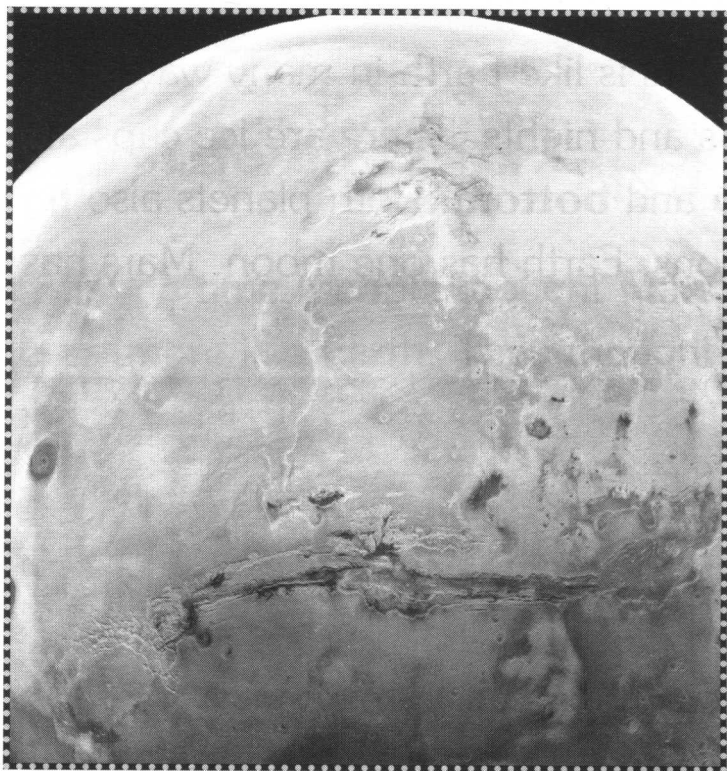


Mars

A planet can be made of dirt, rock, and sometimes gas. There are nine planets that travel around our Sun. Our Earth is the third planet from the Sun. Mars is the fourth planet, right after Earth. Mars and Earth are next-door **neighbors!**



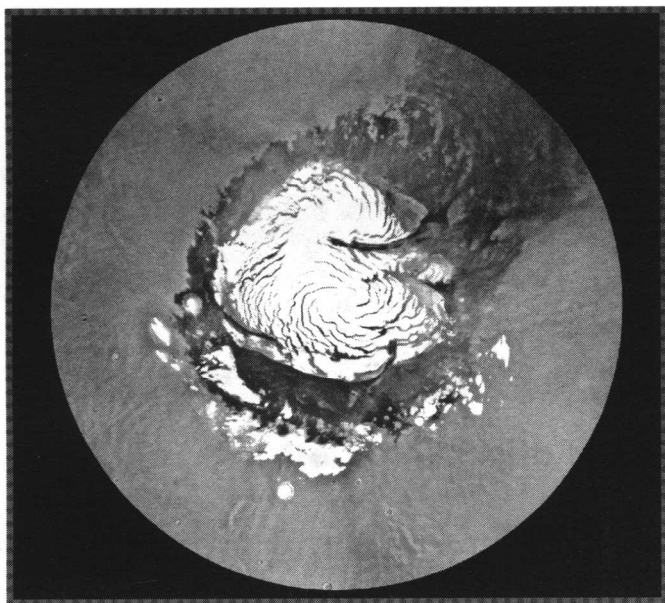
Our solar system has nine planets.



Mars is drier than Earth.

Mars is different from Earth. It is only about half the size. If you look at Mars **through** a telescope, the planet looks **reddish**. It is much colder than Earth. The temperatures are almost always **below** zero. The air is so **thin** a person could not **breathe** it. Still, Mars is the planet most like Earth.

Mars is like Earth in many ways. It has days and nights. There are ice caps at the **top** and **bottom**. Both planets also have moons. Earth has one moon. Mars has two.



Ice cap on Mars

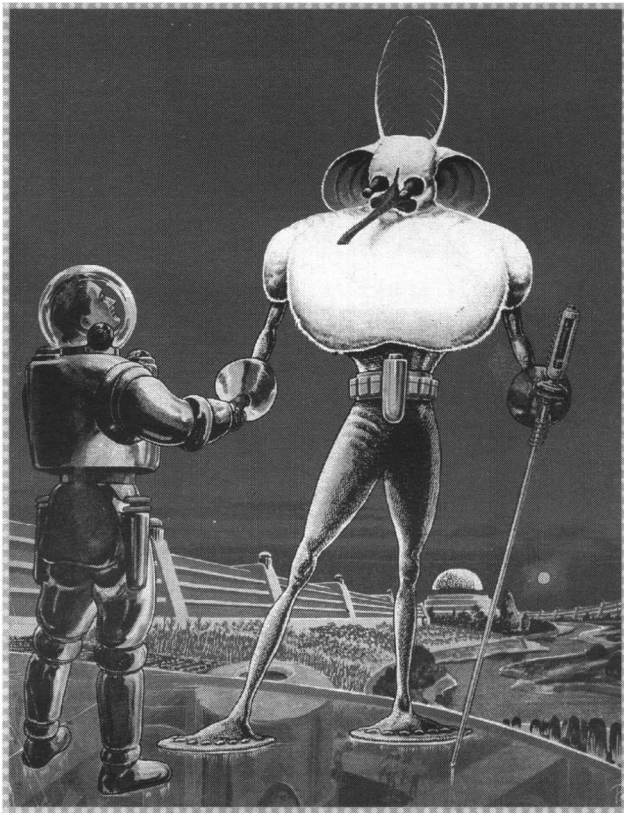
Mars Up Close

Mars has many dust storms.
Some dust storms on Mars can
last for months.

Chapter 2

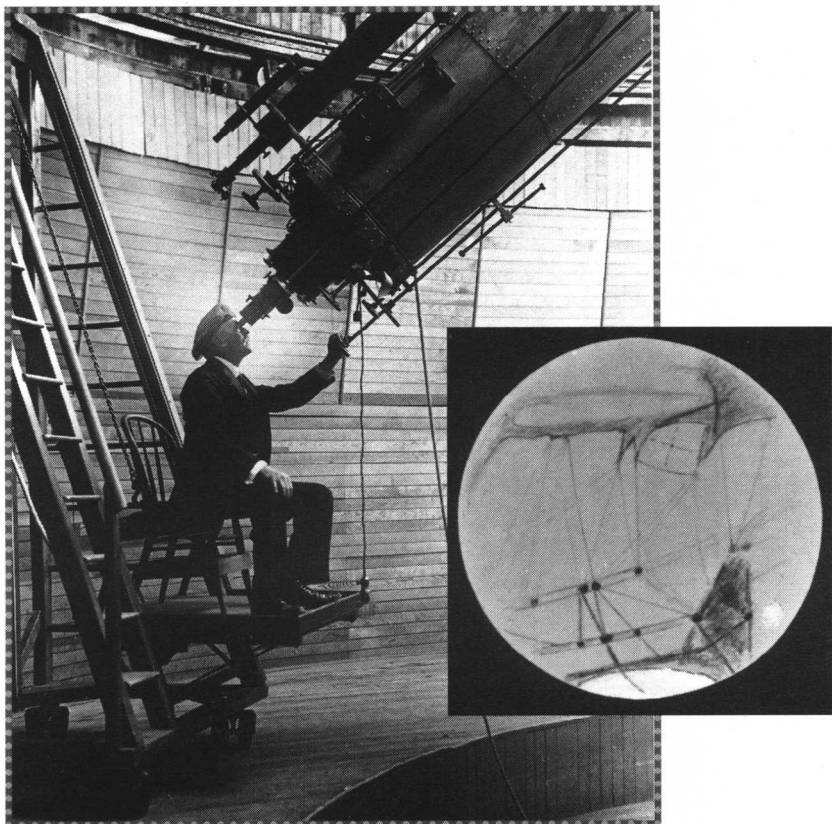
Life on Mars?

For a long time, people thought Mars was even more like Earth. They thought there was life on Mars.



An artist's idea of what a Martian might look like

About 100 years ago a scientist looked at Mars through a telescope. He saw dark lines on the planet. He thought they were **canals**. Canals are like small rivers. People build canals on Earth to carry water.



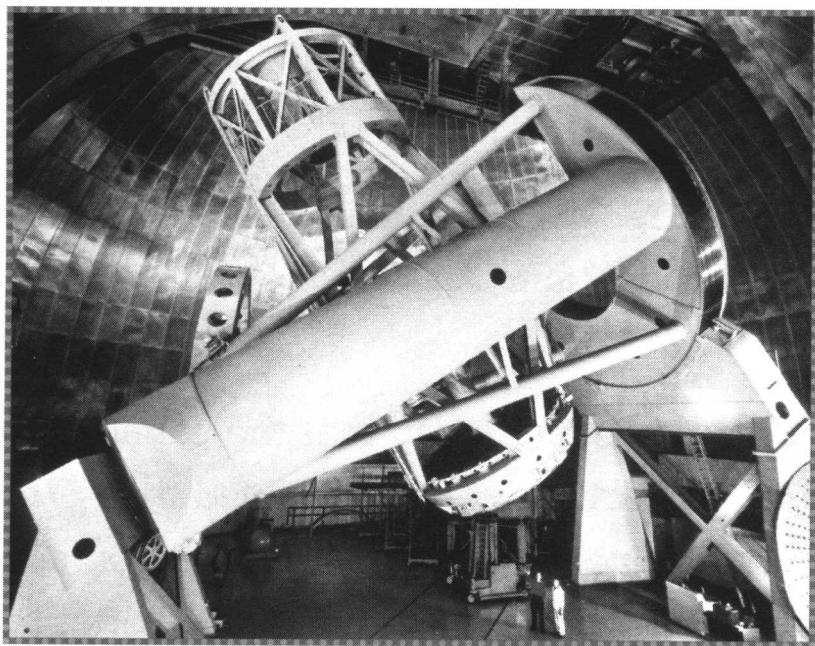
Percival Lowell drew what he saw on Mars. He thought the lines were canals.



A Martian city in a story

People began to say that the canals were built by Martians. They imagined that Martians lived on Mars in cities like ours. Then people began to **make up** stories about Martians. Some stories were about little green people in flying saucers. Some were about **unfriendly** creatures who **attacked** Earth.

Scientists did not know if there was life on Mars. They could not see enough of the planet through their telescopes. So they built a spacecraft to go to Mars.



Hale telescope at Mount Palomar Observatory

Mars Up Close

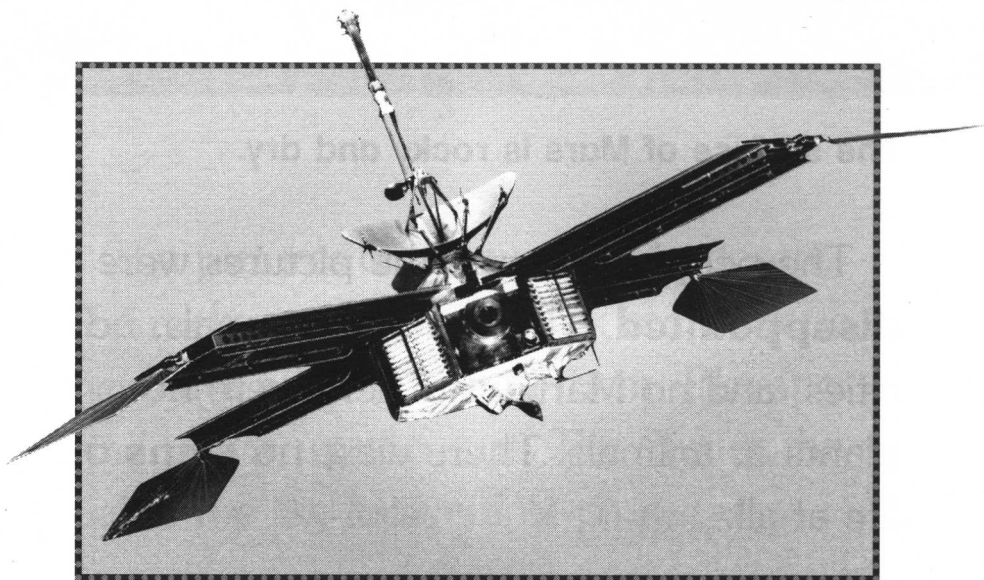
Today a small spacecraft takes
six months to get to Mars.



Chapter 3

Pictures of Mars

The first spacecraft was sent to Mars in 1965. It had special cameras. It got **close enough** to take pictures of Mars. Then it sent the pictures back to Earth.



Mariner 4



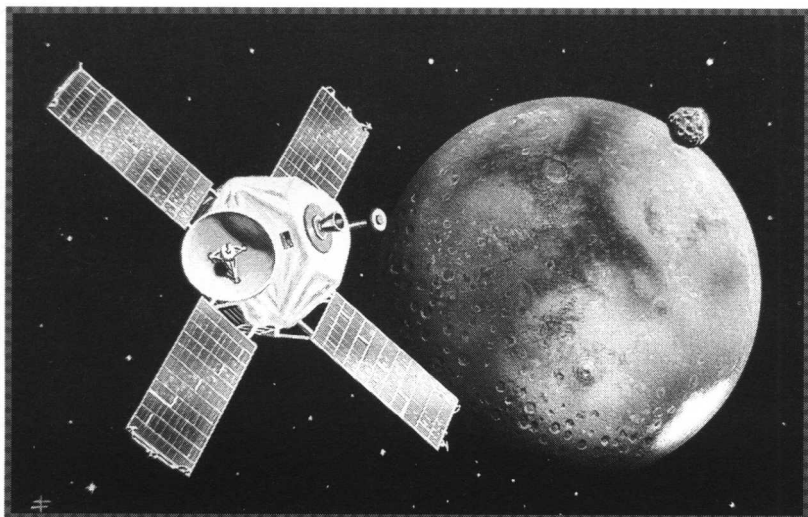
The surface of Mars is rocky and dry.

The people who saw the pictures were **disappointed**. There were no canals, no cities, and no Martians. There were no plants or animals. There were no **signs** of life at all.



The pictures did show a rocky desert. The rocks and soil may look red because they have a lot of iron in them. Blowing wind **picks up** the dust. The dust in the air makes the sky look red or pink.

In 1971 scientists sent another spacecraft to Mars. This one went around the planet. It took lots of pictures. There were still no signs of life. There were many new **discoveries**.



Mariner 9

★ ★ **Mars Up Close** ★ ★
● Mars may not be as red as
★ people think. New cameras show
★ pictures of a yellow-brown planet.
★ ● ★ ★ ● ★ ★ ★