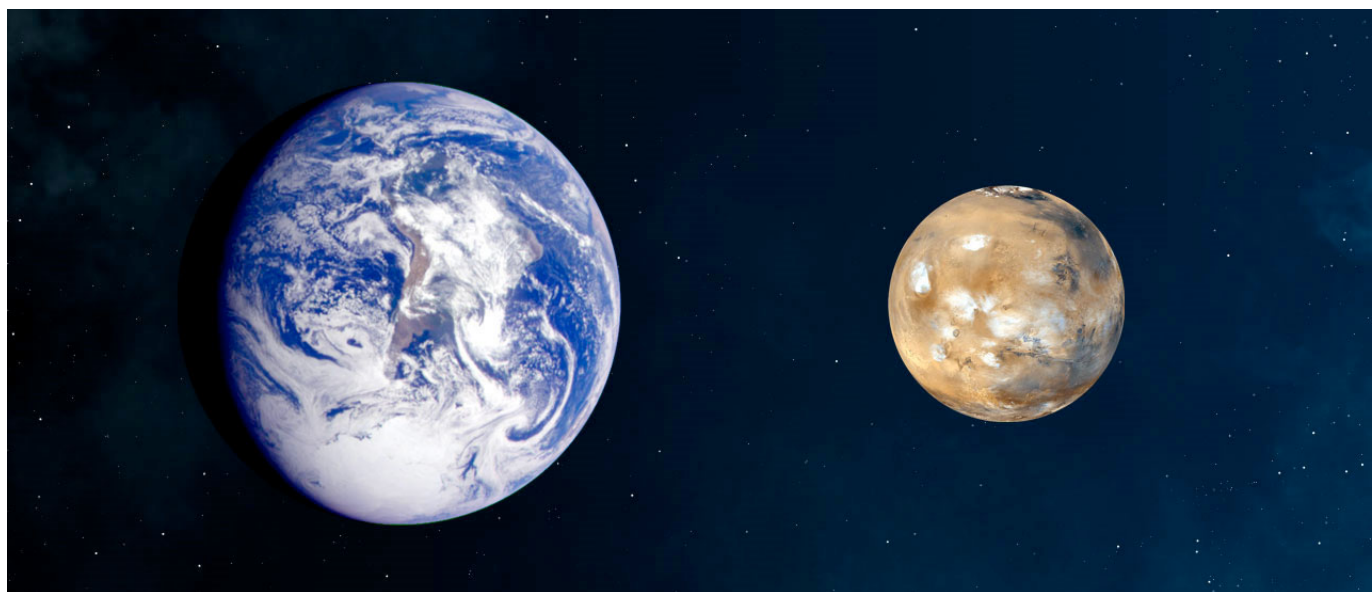


Celestial Sky



Images and text courtesy of NASA

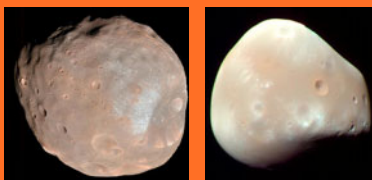
Comparing Earth and Mars

	Earth	Mars
Average Distance from Sun	93 million miles	142 million miles
Average Speed in Orbiting Sun	18.5 miles per second	14.5 miles per second
Diameter	7,926 miles	4,220 miles
Tilt of Axis	23.5 degrees	25 degrees
Length of Year	365.25 Days	687 Earth Days
Length of Day	23 hours 56 minutes	24 hours 37 minutes
Gravity	2.66 times that of Mars	0.375 that of Earth
Temperature	Average 57°F or 13.9°C	Average -81°F or -63°C
Atmosphere	nitrogen, oxygen, argon, others	mostly carbon dioxide, some water vapour
Number of Moons	1	2

Mars Facts

Mars is the fourth planet from the sun and the next planet beyond Earth. It is, on average, more than 142 million miles from the sun. Mars is about one-sixth the size of Earth. Mars is known as the Red Planet. It gets its red colour from the iron oxide (like rust) in its soil.

Mars is named for the ancient Roman god of war. The Greeks called the planet Ares. The Romans and Greeks associated the planet with war because its colour resembles the colour of blood.



Mars has two small moons. Their names are **Phobos** and **Deimos**. They are named for the sons of Ares, the Greek god of war. Phobos means "fear," and Deimos means "flight."

Mars in the night sky....

Just like Earth, Mars orbits the sun. However, Earth makes two trips around the sun in about the same amount of time it takes Mars to make one trip. Sometimes the two planets are on opposite sides of the sun and are very far apart. Other times they pass relatively close to each other.

Mars is not always visible in the night sky but when it is visible near where you live, this website might help you find it. Just enter your location:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/night/>

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