

MARS

The Red Planet



POSITION
4th planet
from the Sun



DISTANCE
227.9 million km
from the Sun



DIAMETER
6,779 km



TEMPERATURE
-125°C average
(can range from
-153°C to 20°C)



LENGTH OF DAY
24 hours 37 minutes
(very close to Earth!)



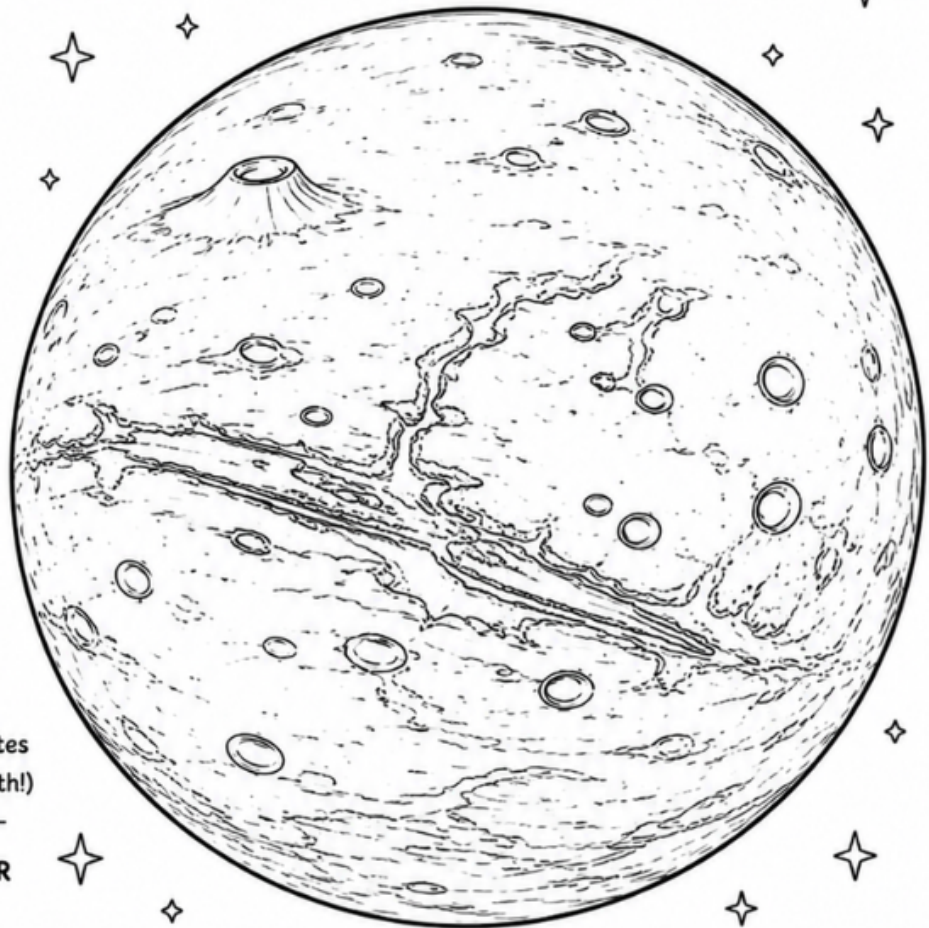
LENGTH OF YEAR
687 Earth days



ATMOSPHERE
Thin atmosphere
made mostly of
carbon dioxide
with dust storms



SURFACE
Rocky surface with
mountains, valleys,
and canyons



Mars is called the Red Planet because its surface is covered with iron oxide (rust), which gives it a red color. It is a rocky planet with the largest volcano in the Solar System, Olympus Mons, and a giant canyon system called Valles Marineris. Mars has a thin atmosphere and experiences dust storms that can cover the entire planet. Scientists study Mars to learn more about its past and future possibilities for life.