



The red planet has long inspired wild flights of imagination as well as intense scientific interest. Arid, rocky and cold, the fourth planet from the Sun offers little in the way of a hospitable environment. Yet Mars has been visited by more spacecraft than any planet beyond Earth.

This is the first color image of Mars taken by the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit. It is the highest-resolution image ever taken on the surface of another planet.





Mars is home to the tallest volcano in the solar system. Olympus Mons is about three times as tall as Mt. Everest and about the size of the state of New Mexico.



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