

LITTLE BOOKS OF  
**BIG FACTS**

**MARS**

Written by Bel Richardson

### **Why is phonics important to learn?**

The English language seems like it is full of a lot of crazy pronunciations and spelling. While a small amount of English must be rote learned due to exceptions from rules, much of it can be decoded using phonics. When you know phonics, you are like a detective following clues to solve a mystery. In this series, we use only words that your little reader will be able to break down into standard phonemes. This will build reading confidence while strengthening their phonics foundation.

### **Is this the right level for my little reader?**

If your reader can decode about 90% of the words in this book independently, this will be an appropriate platform to begin their study of phonics. By understanding a majority of the words, a reader can use context to decode new terms. If a reader breezes through, you might need to take them up another level. If this level is still a bit too tricky for them, get your reader to try some of the earlier levels first. Challenges can be good, but too much too quickly could overwhelm your reader. Take things slow and steady. Enjoy the books and the journey together!

### **How can I be a good learning buddy for my reader?**

If you are helping somebody to read this book, there are plenty of ways that you can go about it. Do the initial exercises together before you begin to read so that you have both experienced the isolated sounds and discussed them. If the reader gets stuck, cover up all but the first phoneme in the word so that the sound can be isolated again. Slowly move along and reveal more phonemes. Once they can say each individual part of the word, you can focus on blending. Say the words so that they can hear them, and get them to repeat it out aloud several times. To consolidate knowledge after you finish a page, talk about what happened and what is in the picture. Then, try saying some of the words on the page and see if the reader can identify them. Get the reader doing this as well, saying words which you need to find. Above all, you should be patient. Create a safe place to make mistakes so that the reader is willing to give things a go.

### **Special Words**

This book has some special words that you should take your reader through before you begin. Many special words are those that we use in day-to-day conversation. Unfortunately, a lot of their phonetic structures do not conform to rules that your reader has learned. These words can be frustrating and confusing, but they are also a part of natural reading, writing, and conversation.

**Mars, to, Rome, blood, and, planet, orbit, sol, two, water, mountain, you, go, 60,  
canals, meant, has, live, be**

Say each word to your reader a few times so that they can get used to its sound. Get them to repeat it back to you. Afterwards, see if your reader can think of any words that rhyme with this sound in order to help lock in how to pronounce it. Finally, think of some basic sentences that use this word. For example, if the word is ‘the’ you can create basic sentences with a subject, verb, and object: “The hat is on the table.”

# How did Mars get its name?

Mars gets its name from a god. This god liked to hurt. This story is from old Rome. Mars is named after this god as it is **red** like blood.



Are Mars and our planet red?

Mars is **red**. Our planet is **blue**.



**Mars is a god**

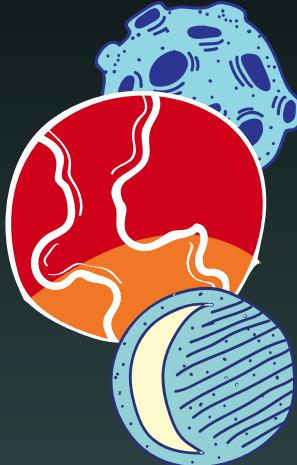


How long is Mars orbit?

A day on Mars is a little longer than a day on our planet. A day on Mars is called a 'sol'. Mars is not as close to our Sun as our planet is. Mars is a planet out from us.

Is Mars on a tilt like our planet?  
Yes, Mars is on a tilt.

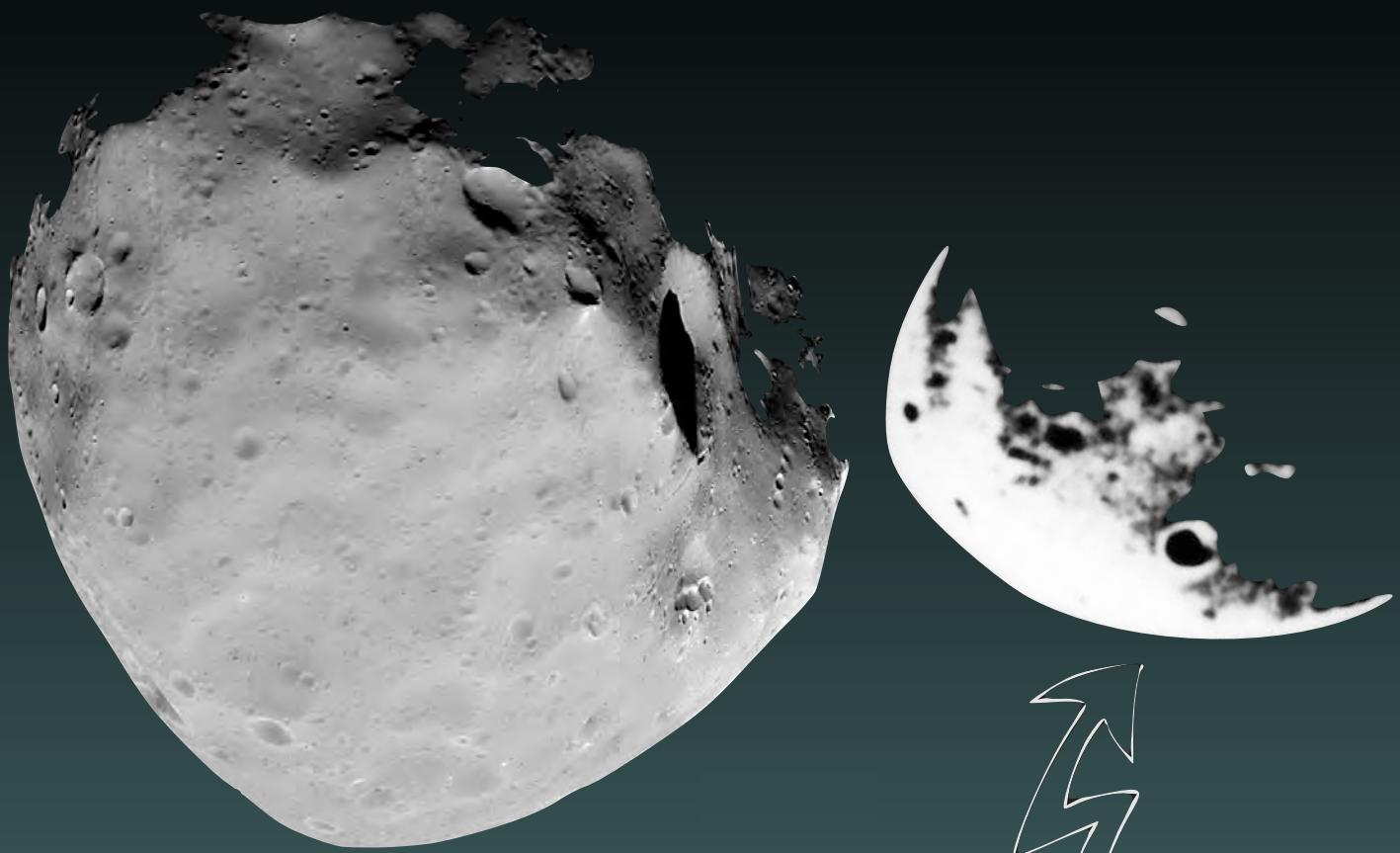
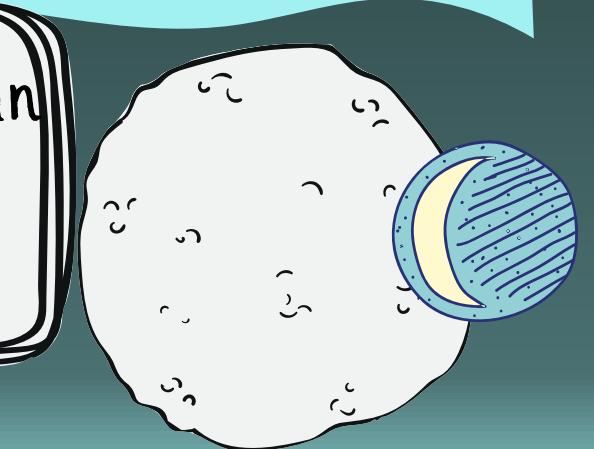
Are moons around Mars?



A moon orbits our planet. Two moons orbit Mars. This moon is bigger. Its name means fear. This moon is smaller. Its name means panic. Its name came from Mars god's boy.

Are these moons bigger than our moon?

Our moon is much bigger.



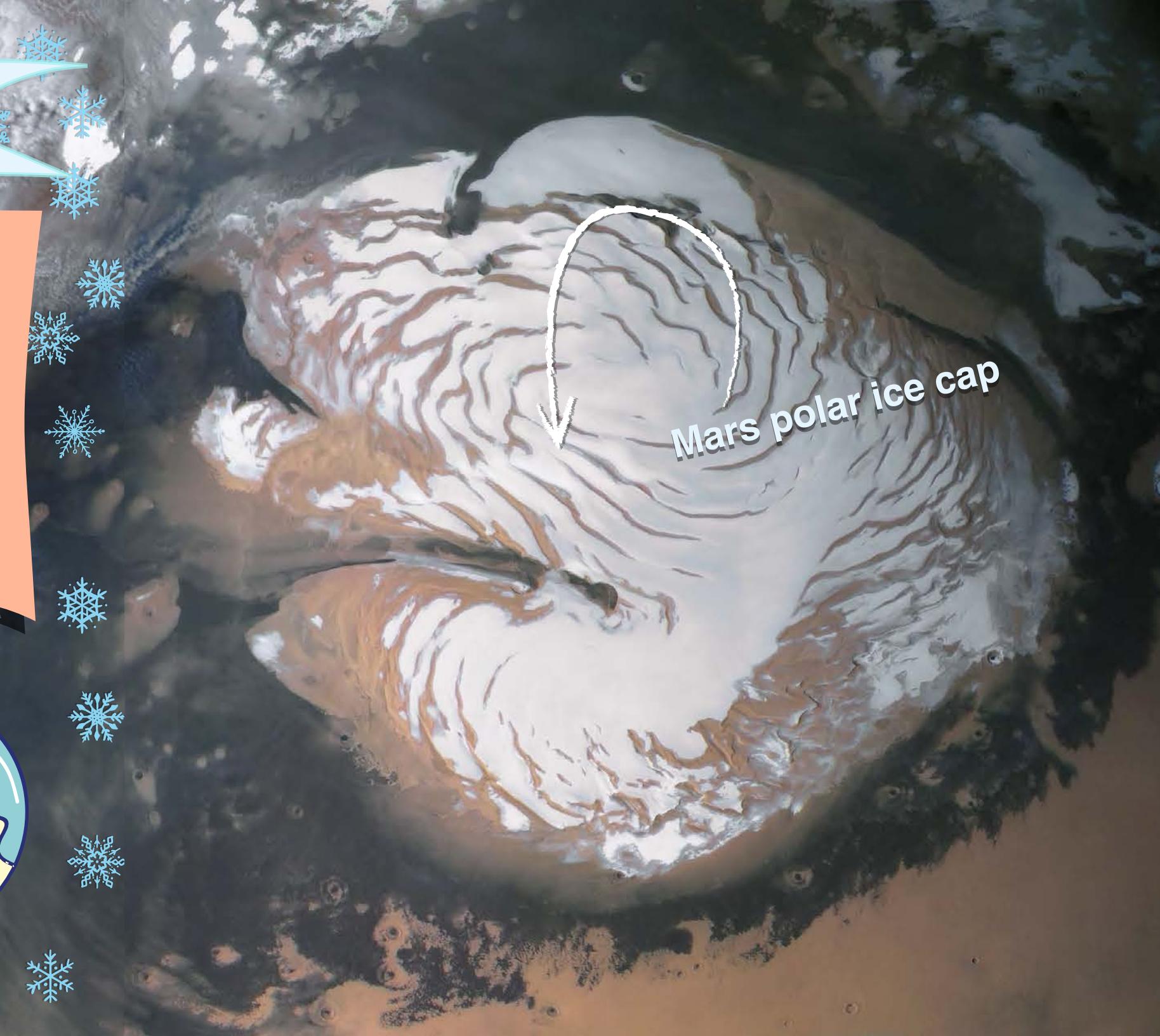
**Phobos**



**Deimos**

# Are cold caps on Mars?

These are cold caps on Mars. In winter, these caps are dark. If these cold caps get sun, big winds start. It makes big dust storms.



## Are cold caps on our planet?

Yes





*What we think water on  
Mars looks like*

## Is water on Mars?

In old times, Mars had water. Life needs water. Now just a little bit stays. This water is very salty. It is in dark stripes. Computers look at wet soil on Mars.

## Is life on Mars?

Life cannot be found on Mars yet. It may be very small.

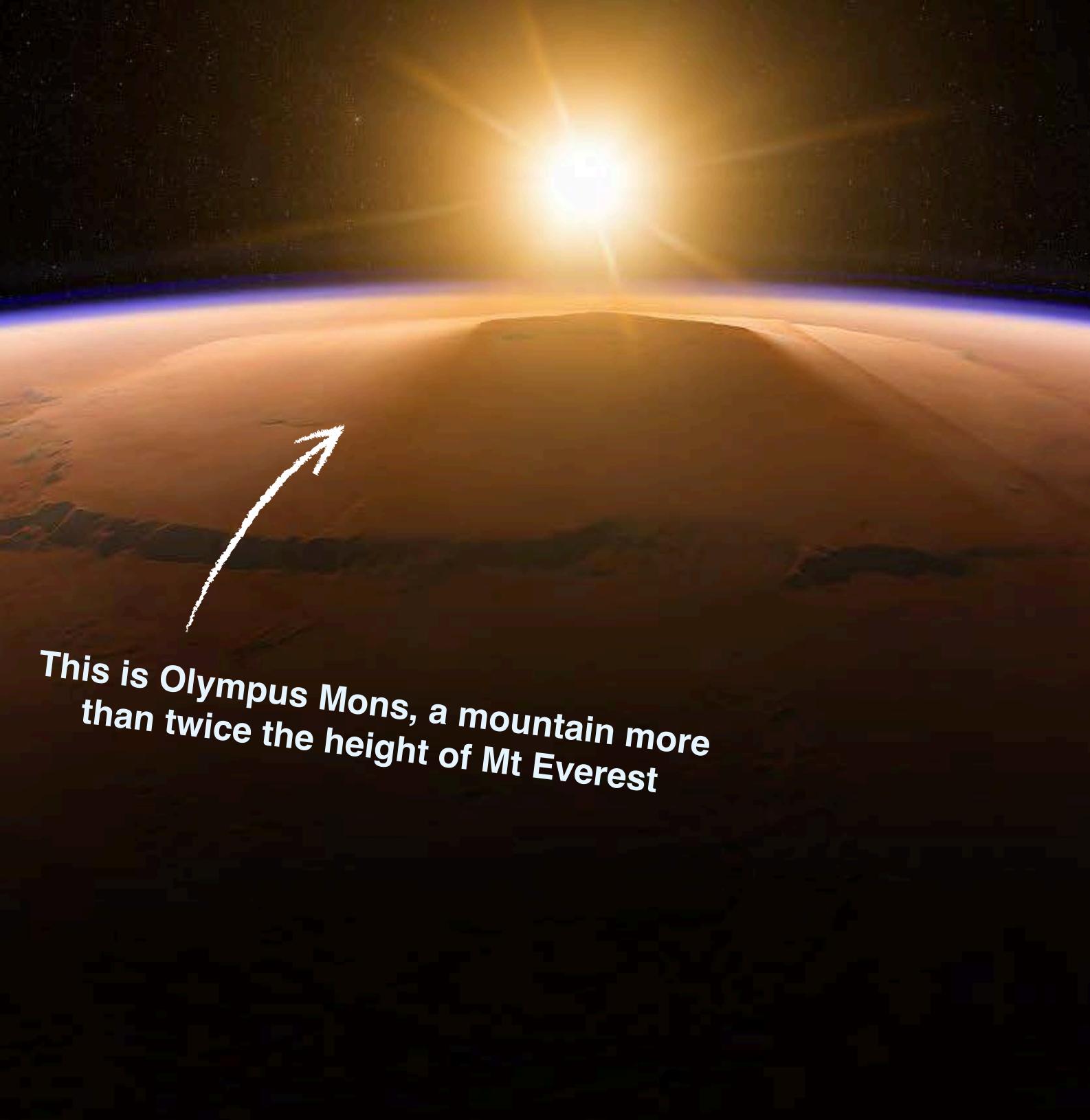
# Are bots testing on Mars?

Here are Mars bots. Bots look at soil on Mars. These bots can test this soil. These bots can tell things in soil. Bots stay on Mars a long time.

How big is this bot?

It is as big as a car.

Nasa Mars robot



This is Olympus Mons, a mountain more than twice the height of Mt Everest

## Are mountains on Mars?

A very big mountain is on Mars. It is bigger than all mountains on our planet. It is nearly three times as big as our biggest mountain.

Can you go up our biggest mountain in a day?

It takes 60 days.



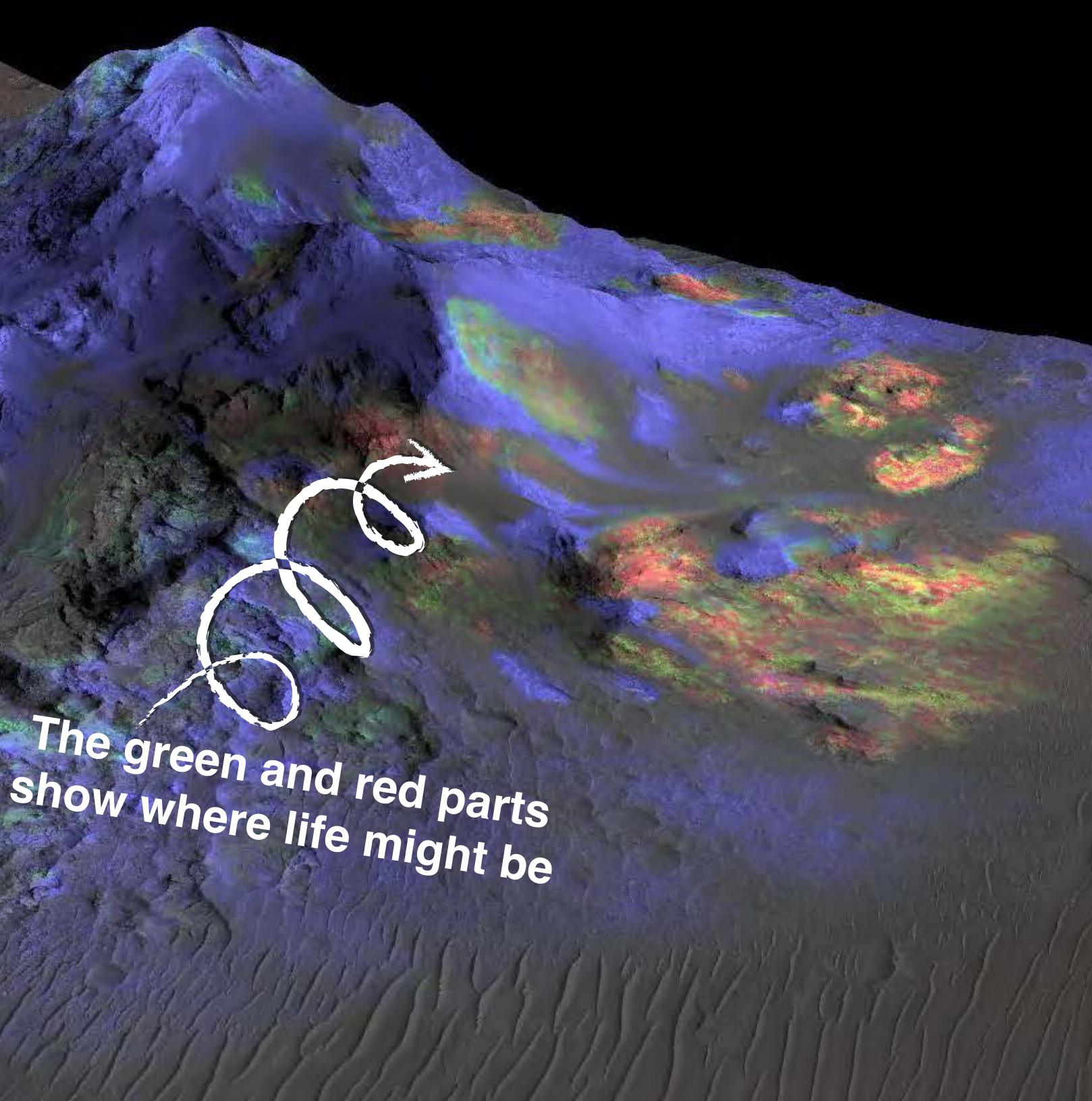
Are canals on Mars?

A man told all that Mars had canals. Canals meant smart life. A man named them after rivers on our planet. Men looked and looked. Mars did not have canals.

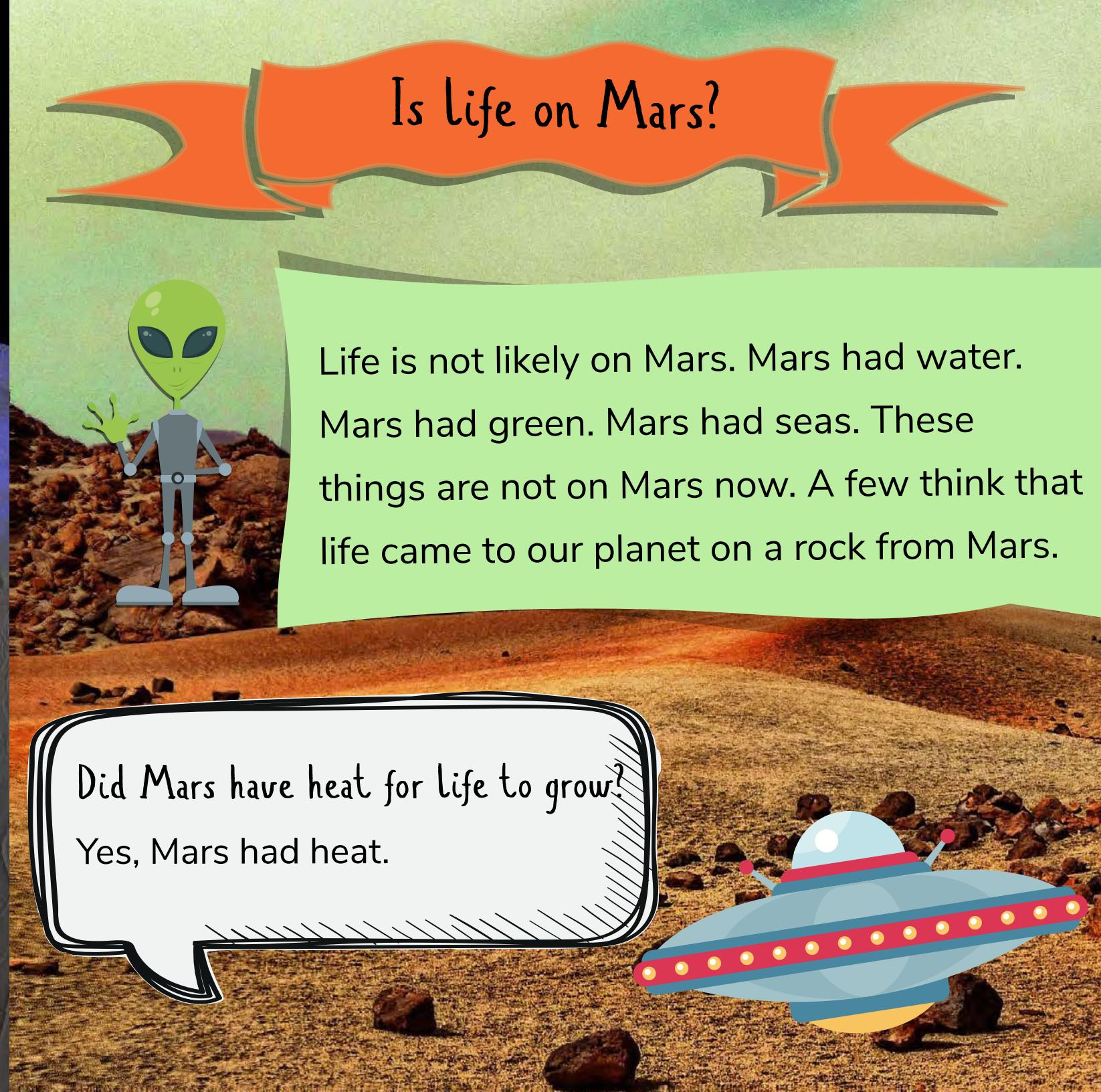
Are patterns on Mars?

Yes, Mars has patterns like canals.

Channels on the surface of Mars



The green and red parts  
show where life might be



Is life on Mars?

Life is not likely on Mars. Mars had water. Mars had green. Mars had seas. These things are not on Mars now. A few think that life came to our planet on a rock from Mars.

Did Mars have heat for life to grow?

Yes, Mars had heat.



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