



# Planet Mars

**Mars**, the red planet, is the most **Earth**-like of all the planets; it too has polar ice caps that grow and recede with the change of the seasons. It also has markings that appear to be similar to water channels on **Earth**.

The Martian soil is composed mostly of clay rich in iron. The oxidation of the Martian soil causes the reddish coloration of the planet. The process described above is that of rusting. So **Mars** is like a car. When a car has been exposed to the elements (rain, air, winter's salty streets etc.) its body begins to rust, and that's what happened to **Mars**. Imagine a rusty planet in our solar system!



The temperature on **Mars** can be very, very cold. On one of its best summer days, temperatures can reach 20°C in certain areas; however, colder temperatures are more common with night-time temperatures of 140°C below zero.



### How heavy would you be on Mars?

If you weigh 34 kg (75 lb) you would weigh 12 kg (28 lb) on Mars. To calculate your weight, all you have to do is multiply your weight (kilos or pounds) by 0.38.



### How old would you be on Mars?

If you are 10 years old this year you would be 6 years old on Mars.