



ROYAL
OBSERVATORY
GREENWICH

Mars

Solar System



Holiday



Solar System Holiday



Mars

Don't let the red colour of Mars fool you into thinking that it is a hot planet — it is actually very cold! Mars is further away from the Sun than the Earth so it does not get as much of the Sun's energy as we do. However, it does have four seasons during its year just like the Earth. At the height of summer, it can be 20°C (a warm summer's day in the UK) but when it is winter it can be below -150°C (three times colder than Antarctica)! The seasons on Mars last around twice as long as they are on Earth — yikes.

One year on Mars is almost twice as long as a year on the Earth because it takes Mars almost twice as long to make one orbit around the Sun. A day on Mars is about an hour longer than a day on the Earth though so very similar.

There are two small moons in orbit around Mars. They are called Deimos and Phobos. Even though their names mean terror and fear they don't look very scary at all — in fact, they look more like giant space potatoes!

Type of object	Planet
How many can you fit inside the Earth	2
Number of moons	2
What is it made of?	Rock
Main colour	Red
How long is a year?	687 Earth days
How long is a day?	Just over 1 Earth day
Does it have seasons?	Yes
Minimum temperature (°C)	-153
Maximum temperature (°C)	20