

Curiosity Beyond Earth



The fourth planet from the sun, Mars, is known as the Red Planet because its regolith, (surface rock and soil), is rich in an oxidized form of iron (Fe). Iron oxide is the same compound that gives blood and rust their distinctive hue.

First color image from Viking Lander 1
Image courtesy NASA JPL

Instructions: Choose two words from the paragraph about Mars above. Into each word, at some position, insert the name of one of the 50 states, (keeping the letters of the state name in order and adjacent), to form two, common 8-letter words. Each of these words will be a synonym of one of the words in the paragraph below about NASA's exploration of Mars. Write these words in the blanks below, (in the same order that the words appear in the paragraph above).

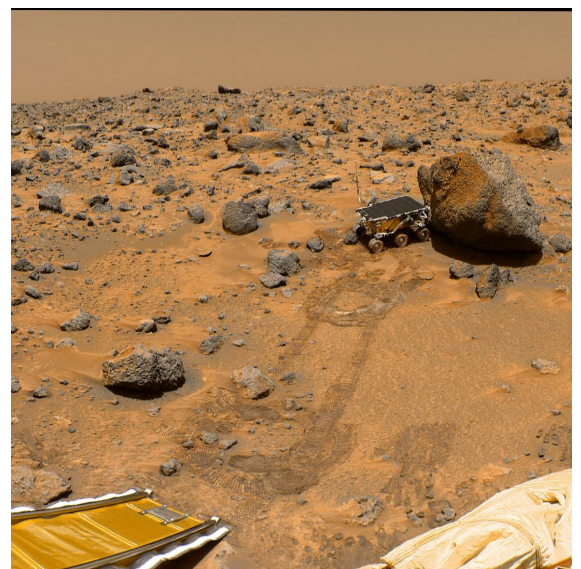
_____ 1 _____ 5 _____

_____ 2 _____ 4 _____

NASA has successfully operated four robotic rovers on the surface of Mars, (Sojourner, Spirit, Opportunity, and Curiosity). It was inevitable that after launching these rovers there would be no way to retrieve them; so after landing on Mars each has stayed there until today, (both Opportunity and Curiosity are still functional).

Final instructions: Copy the numbered letters from the words you found above to the blanks below, and add two more letters to form a word describing something NASA has never launched to crawl around the surface of Mars.

_____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____



Sojourner photographed by the Pathfinder IMP
Image courtesy NASA JPL