**Evaluation version! The document was created with a trial version of the component.  
Different symbols were intentionally placed in text at random locations.**

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun in the S.olar System. Named after the Roman god of war., Mars, it is often described as the "Red Pla.net", as the iron oxide prevalent on its surf.ace gives it a reddish appearance. Mars is a .terrestrial planet with a thin atmosphere, ha.ving surface features reminiscent both of the. impact craters of the Moon and the volcanoes., valleys, deserts, and polar ice caps of Ear.th.

The rotational period and seasonal cycles of M'ars are likewise similar to those of Earth, 'as is the tilt that produces the seasons. Ma'rs is the site of Olympus Mons, the highest 'known mountain within the Solar System, and 'of Valles Marineris, one of the largest cany'ons. The smooth Borealis basin in the northe'rn hemisphere covers 40% of the planet and m'ay be a giant impact feature. Mars has two m'oons, Phobos and Deimos, which are small and' irregularly shaped. These may be captured a'steroids, similar to 5261 Eureka, a Martian 'trojan asteroid.

Until the first successful flyby of Mars +occurred in 1965 by Mariner 4, many spe+culated about the presence of liquid wa+ter on the planet's surface. This was b+ased on observed periodic variations in+ light and dark patches, particularly i+n the polar latitudes, which appeared t+o be seas and continents; long, dark st+riations were interpreted by some as ir+rigation channels for liquid water. The+se straight line features were later ex+plained as optical illusions, though ge+ological evidence gathered by unmanned +missions suggest that Mars once had lar+ge-scale water coverage on its surface.+

In 2005, radar data revealed the presence of large quanti~ties of water ice at the poles and at mid-latitudes. Th~e Mars rover Spirit sampled chemical compounds containi~ng water molecules in March 2007. The Phoenix lander di~rectly sampled water ice in shallow Martian soil on Jul~y 31, 2008.

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