



Red Color of Mars

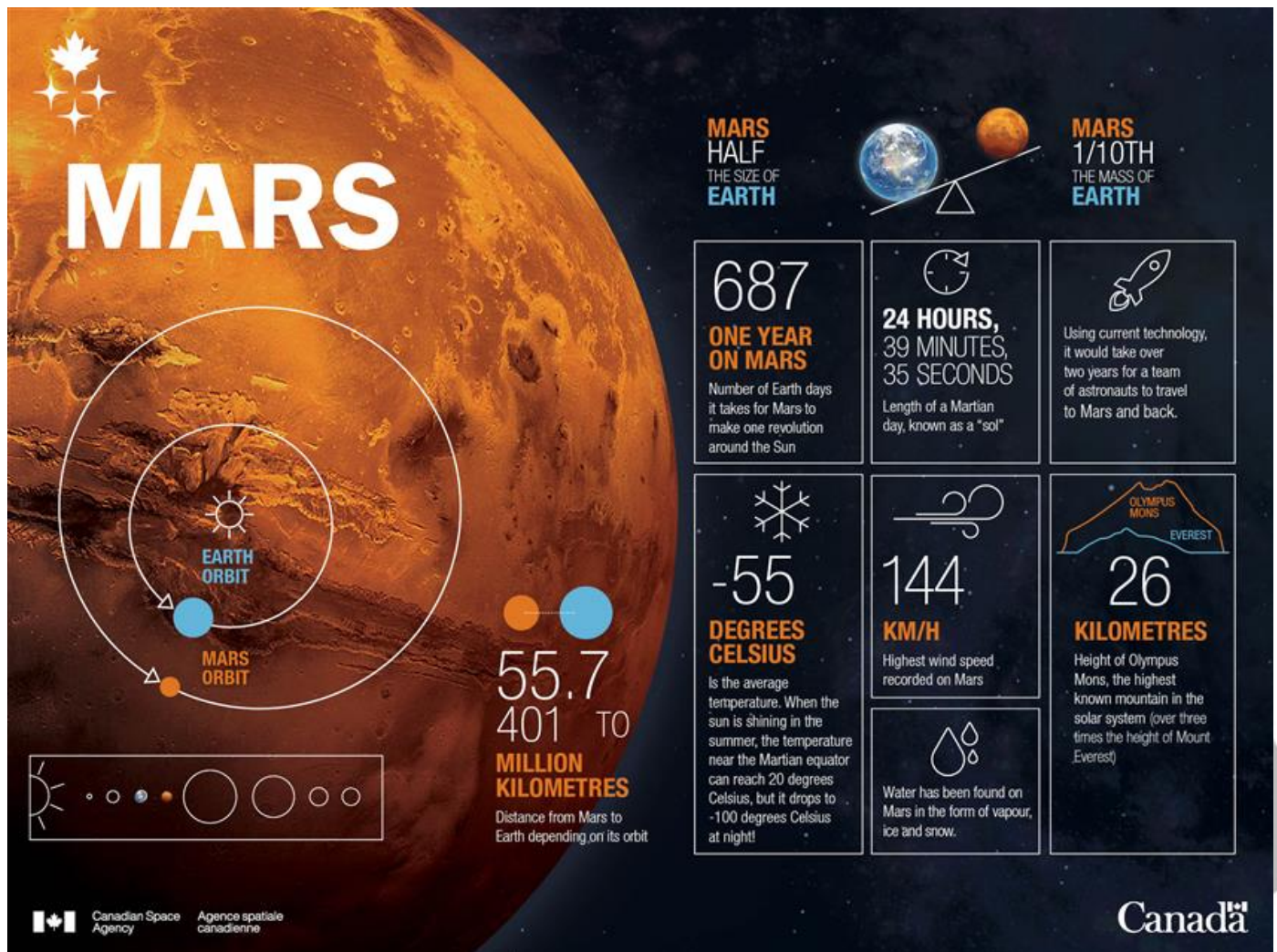
[Source: TOI](#)

The study, based on data from several space missions and ground-level observations, suggests that **Mars' red color is primarily due to Ferrihydrite—a water-formed iron oxide—rather than the previously assumed Hematite.**

- **Ferrihydrite forms in cool, water-rich conditions**, whereas **hematite forms in dry, warm conditions**.
 - It suggests that **Mars once had liquid water**, potentially supporting life. Additionally, **the study revealed hydrogen bound to iron-rich minerals**, further indicating past interactions with liquid water on Mars.

Mars: Mars is the **4th planet from the Sun** and the **second-smallest in the Solar System after Mercury**.

- About **half Earth's size**, it hosts **Olympus Mons (largest volcano)**, and has 2 moons (Phobos and Deimos).
- Mars **completes a rotation every 24.6 hours**, making its day **nearly identical in length to Earth's (23.9 hours)**. Martian days are called **sols**.
 - A year on Mars lasts **669.6 sols**, which is the same as **687 Earth days**.
- Its axis is tilted at **25 degrees** relative to its orbit, similar to **Earth's axial tilt of 23.4 degrees**.
 - Mars experiences **seasons like Earth**, but they are **longer in duration**.
- **Important Mars Missions:**
 - [NASA's Mars Mission](#), [India's MOM](#), [UAE's Hope](#)
 - [Tianwen-1: China's Mars Mission](#)



Read More: [NASA's Mars Sample Return Program](#)

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