

47 - Mars vs Venus

You probably know that Mars and Venus are our closet neighbors in the solar system. But, which would be the better planet to live on? Why do we always talk about exploring Mars but not Venus? What is it like on the surface of Mars and Venus?

Mars is a close neighbor of Earth. But guess what, Venus is closer! (34.6 million miles for Mars versus 23.7 million miles for Venus). Mars also appears as a bright spot in the night sky. But guess what, Venus is brighter! However, the surface of Venus is very inhospitable with lots of volcanos and hurricanes! Which is probably why Mars has long been the object of earthling's fascination. People used to gaze at its red surface and dream up stories of Martian creatures and alien invasions. Of course, those aliens don't exist, but Mars continues to intrigue people. No planet besides Earth has been studied more intensely. But could people one day live on Mars? Tune in to find out!

Activities

1. Find out what you would weigh on Mars! [This](#) website does all of the math for you. All you need is your current weight in pounds.
2. Mars takes longer to make one round trip around the Sun than the Earth, which means you would have had fewer birthdays on Mars! While your grandparents might like that, that would mean fewer birthday parties for you! [Check](#) out this age calculator to see how old you would be on Mars.
3. Venus has thousands of volcanos. You can make a safe volcano at home. [NASA](#) has a wonderful experiment that lets you make your own volcano, complete with lava channels. If you want to know more about Venus, you can read more on the NASA website!

Additional Resources

Do you have an aspiring astronaut or NASA scientist? NASA has a wonderful website for its Mars project, meant for kids. There are activities, short videos, and other resources that will keep your young explorers busy for hours. Check them out [here](#).

Kid News

Washing your hands is always important but sometimes we need to use hand sanitizer. Cleaning your hands after touching things in a public space, before meals, and throughout the day helps keep us healthy and those around us healthy. But, it's important to be careful. Due to the increased use of hand sanitizer, more kids are getting it in their eyes, which is painful! It can also damage your eyes. Make sure that you ask an adult to help you if you are not taller than the hand sanitizer. Check out this [article](#) on how to keep things out of your eyes.¹

¹ This activity guide is for the Who Smarted? podcast www.WhoSmarted.com