

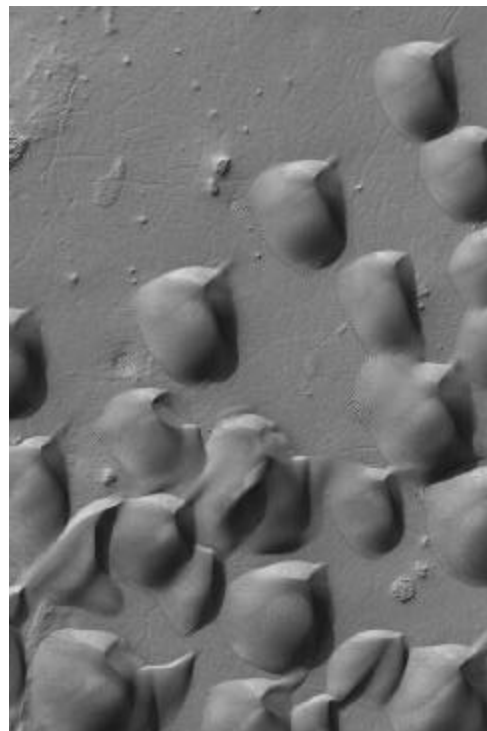
Conditions on Mars: Weather, winds, storms

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Storms and carbon dioxide clouds do form on Mars. Evidence of winds on Mars can be seen in this image of dunes formed on the Martian surface. The wind that formed these dunes was blowing from the bottom left to the top right of the image. The image was taken by a camera on the Mars Global Surveyor, and is about 3 km wide.

Unlike Earth, it does not rain on Mars. It is possible for clouds to form in the thin atmosphere, but temperatures are too low to allow liquid water to form. However, water ice fog is often created

in the bottoms of Martian canyons in early morning, and frost can form in many places on the surface.



Martian sand dunes. NASA/JPL.

The Benchmark Lessons were developed with the help of the following sources:

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Chaisson, Eric, and McMillan, Steve. *Astronomy Today*. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, 1999.

JPL's Planetary Photojournal, <http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/>

Mars Pathfinder Science Results Directory,
<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/MPF/science/science-index.html>

The NASA Image Exchange, <http://nix.nasa.gov/>

Zeilik, Michael, Gregory, Stephen A., and Smith, Elske v. P. *Introductory Astronomy and Astrophysics*. Saunders College Publishing, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers, Austin, 1992.

Mission to Mars: Project Based Learning: Dr. Anthony Petrosino, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education, University of Texas at Austin,
<http://www.edb.utexas.edu/missiontomars/index.html>
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