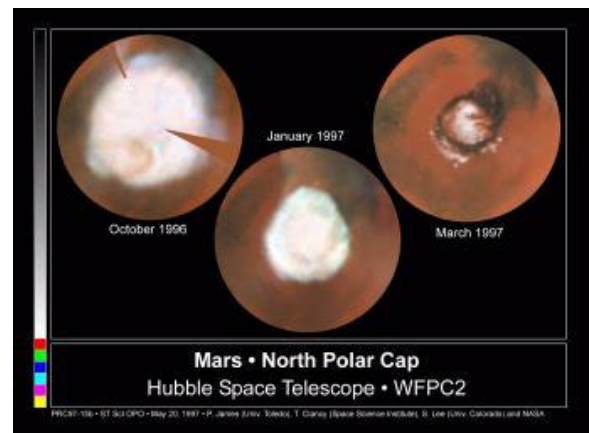


**Mars Geography:
Ice Caps**
By: Elisabeth Ambrose

See also the benchmark lesson on Water on Mars.

Mars has ice caps at both its northern and southern poles. The ice is water ice and carbon dioxide ice (dry ice). In ideal observing conditions, it is possible to see the Martian ice caps from a backyard telescope on Earth.



Martian North Polar Ice Cap. NASA/JPL.



Mars with ice caps. NASA/JPL.

In the summer, the ice caps shrink as the water ice evaporates, leaving behind the carbon dioxide ice.

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>

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