



	Earth	Mars
Diameter	About 7,926 miles (12,756 km).	Roughly 4,222 miles (6,794 km) 53% that of Earth.
Life	Yes.	Unknown.
Intelligent life	Some would say so.	No, probably microbes at best.
Temperature	Too hot / too cold depending on season, location, or both. Average +14°C.	Ridiculously cold, below freezing in most places. Average -55 °C.
Most striking feature	Looks blue from outer space, due to being two-thirds water.	Looks red from outer space, due to being covered in oxidized iron. Earthlings call this "rust."
Cosmic radiation	Manageable, protection courtesy of a strong magnetic field.	Problematic, due to a weak magnetic field, and little atmosphere.
Weather	Hurricanes, typhoons and tornadoes a real problem. Disgustingly interminable fog in coastal California. Utter lack of rain in parts of Africa. Way too wet in many other places.	Dust storms abound. Sometimes whole planet is obscured. Dust devils that soar higher into the atmosphere than terrestrial tornadoes and hurricane-like storms as big as Texas.
Biggest mystery	How life began.	Whether there is life.
Day	23 hours, 56 minutes.	24 hours, 37 minutes.
Year	365 days.	687 Earth-days, or about 670 Mars sols.
Gravity	Normal.	38 percent of that found on Earth at sea level.
Tilt of rotation axis	23.5 degrees.	25 degrees.
Volcanic hazards	Wrong place, wrong time. Say goodbye. Close? Take a photo.	Only remnants of former beasts soaring silently into thin air.
Caves	Many, and they're great places for microbial life to hide.	Maybe, and they're possible places for humans to hide.
Snow	Tons.	Yes, surprisingly, but most is CO ₂ snow rather than H ₂ O!
Ice	Yes, often invisible and under moving car tires.	Yes, much of it invisible and under the surface or beneath another kind of ice at the south pole.
Liquid Water	Inundates the place, especially in basements and during picnics.	Possibly in the past.