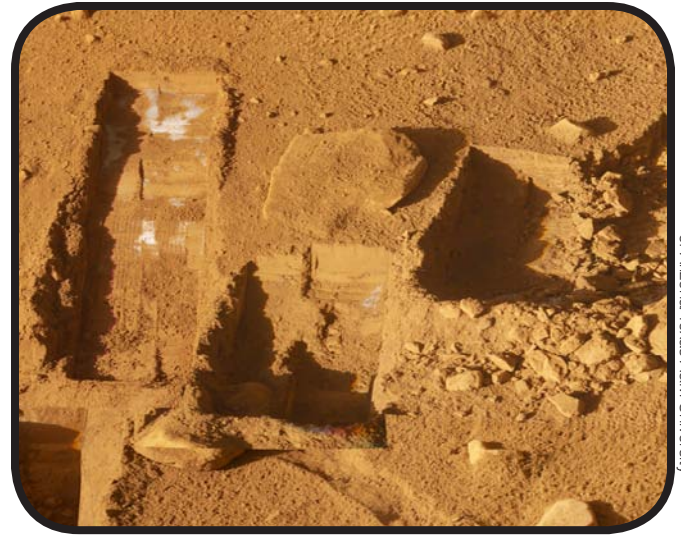


Trips to Mars

People have always been interested in Mars. They thought it might be like Earth. They thought it might have Martians and cities. Astronomers' telescopes showed only fuzzy images of Mars. So no one knew what was there.

In the 1960s, scientists began sending machines called *space probes* to Mars. The space probes sent back many pictures. The pictures showed no cities or living things. Scientists learned that Mars has dry deserts, craters, canyons, and mountains.

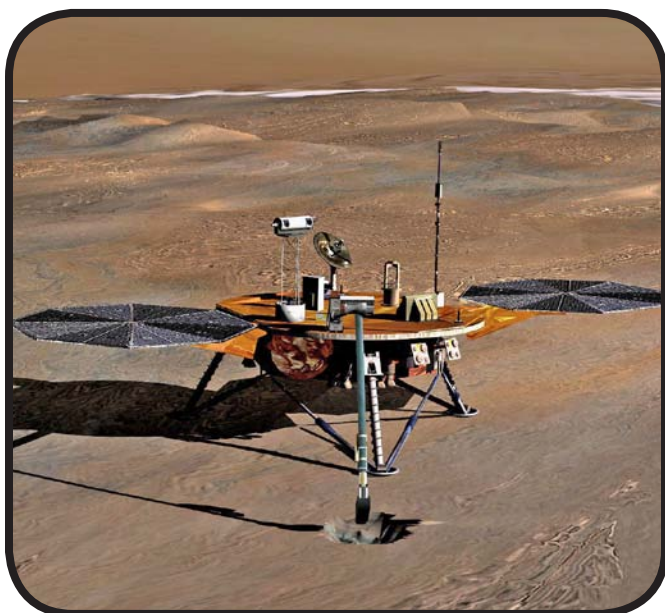


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The Phoenix lander scooped up soil on Mars. The white spots turned out to be ice!

Mars isn't completely dry. It has ice caps at the poles. Liquid water as well as ice may lie beneath the surface. Where there is water, there may be life!

Recent information about Mars has come from rovers and a lander. These machines landed on Mars. They sent back detailed pictures and important information from the planet's surface.



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The Phoenix lander found frozen water in Mars's soil.

✓ Brain Check

- Why did people think there might be life on Mars?
- What tools have people used to find out more about Mars?