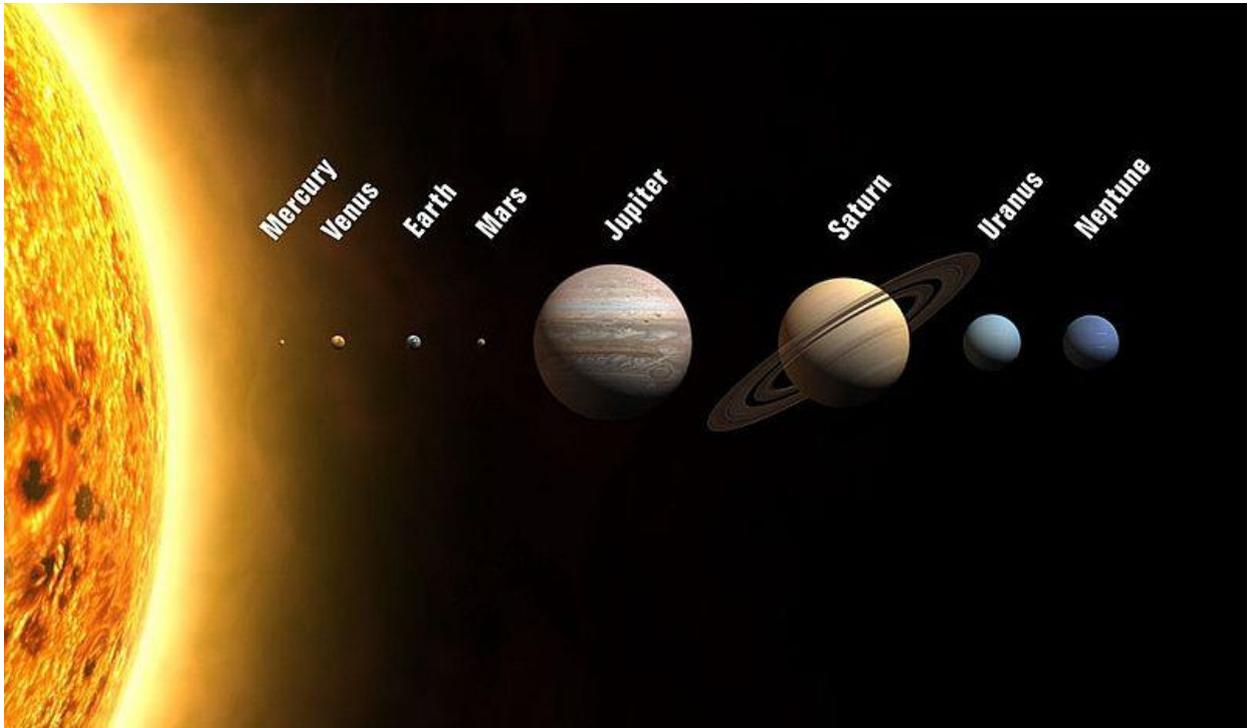


Space opportunity



[From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Planets2013.jpg>]

OK, on the left, above that “OK” you see a white and yellow blob.
That is the Sun.

The Earth [the planet on which we live] goes around the Sun.
7 other planets also go around the Sun.

You can see the Earth – it looks a little bit blue [which comes from
the oceans].

The closest planet to the Sun is called Mercury. Then comes Venus.
Then us on Earth.

Next is Mars [No, no, no – this is NOT where Mars bars come from].

No person has ever been to Mars – but it is important that we know
about the place [even if they don’t have Mars bars].

Show your parents
Chapter 4.

So, we sent a space ship to Mars. It took half a year to get there and arrived in 2004 [a long time before you were born].

When it landed, a robot on wheels got out. This robot was called “Opportunity” – some people just called it “Oppy”.

Well, for 14 years Oppy drove around on Mars and sent pictures back to Earth. Oppy also dug holes in the ground and sent messages back to Earth telling us what it found, and stuff like that.



[Wikipedia says this is in the public domain.]

Oppy got its energy/electricity from the Sun. Recently [after about 14 years] there was a big sandstorm and Oppy got covered with sand. This sand stopped the rays of the Sun getting into its batteries, and so Oppy ran out of energy and stopped – it no longer drives around or digs holes or sends pictures back to Earth.

You will be able to tell people you were alive when Oppy was driving around and doing stuff on Mars – and you were alive when it stopped working.

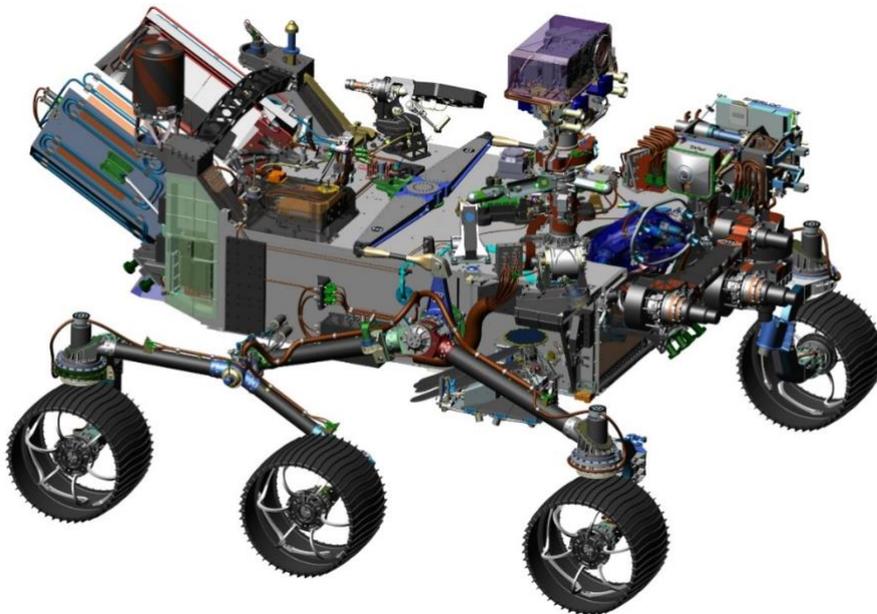
Show your parents
Chapter 4.

No more whizzing around.



[Wikipedia says this is in the public domain.]

They will be sending another robot to Mars to replace Oppy...



[Credits: NASA/JPL-Caltech.]

And this is it – NASA plans to send a robot like this to Mars in 2020.

Show your parents
Chapter 4.

Q: What should you do when you see a green alien?

A: Wait until it's ripe!

Q: What did the astronaut say when he saw bones on the moon?

A: "Oh, so the cow didn't make it."



[Public domain.]

Q: What do you get when you cross a lamb and a rocket?

A: A space sheep!