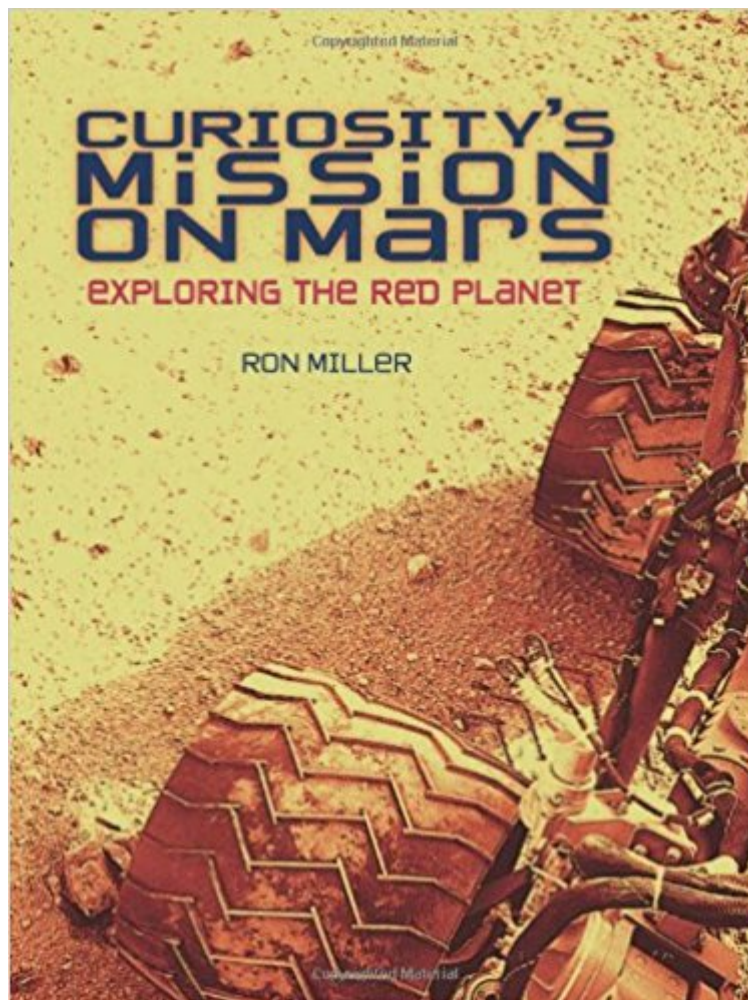




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Curiosity's Mission On Mars: Exploring The Red Planet (Nonfiction - Young Adult)



Synopsis

"Could life have previously flourished on Mars? Will humans be able to travel there one day? Can humans one day colonize the red planet? NASA scientists have been interested in answering questions like these for a long time. In November 2011, NASA sent the rover Curiosity to Earth's nearest planetary neighbor. By gathering information about Mars's climate and geology, the robot is helping scientists uncover the secrets of the planet and its past. Since its launch, Curiosity has made some amazing discoveries. The rover found an ancient streambed where water once flowed for thousands of years, and rock samples proved that the surface soil on Mars still has water! In addition, from drilling into Martian rock, the rover detected the key chemicals necessary for life: sulfur, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, and carbon. And Curiosity's measurement of radiation on Mars shows levels similar to that at the International Space Station. These discoveries suggest that some parts of Mars could have been habitable and may be again in the future. Learn more about the red planet and see what else Curiosity has uncovered! "

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up—Miller introduces and details the Mars craft Curiosity in the first chapter and then chapter by chapter describes the planet, fictional and factual, and what the future might hold for it. Wonderfully illustrated with full-color maps, diagrams, and photographs on every page, this title contains material that is clearly presented and logically arranged. Especially fascinating is the discussion of the array of high-tech tools developed for Curiosity to carry out its mission of scientific exploration and discovery. Sidebars ranging in size from half to full page amplify the narrative—how

Curiosity was named, why is friction a critical consideration of space travel, what is the Gale Crater, and more. In addition to defining terms in the text, a two-page glossary provides basic definitions ("atmosphere," "inert gas," etc.), and a selected bibliography recommends books (nonfiction and fiction), as well as films, magazines, websites, and relevant organizations for further exploration. The two-page index will be helpful for report writers. Packed with relevant and fascinating information, this slim entry will shine in every collection. —Frances E. Millhouser, formerly at Fairfax County Public Library, VA

This clearly written book provides a solid, basic introduction to the Curiosity rover, which NASA launched into space on November 26, 2011. It landed on Mars in August 2012, began drilling into rocks, and has found many key ingredients necessary for life. After briefly surveying the history of Mars expeditions, the opening chapter discusses Curiosity and its technologically advanced tools for exploration and analysis. Other sections of the book discuss the planet Mars, the question of whether it supported life in the past, and the possibility of landing astronauts there in the future. Sidebars provide additional information on related topics, such as the naming of Curiosity by Kansas sixth-grader Clara Ma, the likelihood of ice beneath the surface of Mars, and the layers of the planet's atmosphere. Rather small color photos and diagrams illustrate this succinct introduction. Grades 6-9. --Carolyn Phelan

The Red Planet has captured the interest of Earth-dwellers for centuries, the destination of many fictional voyages and the home of many hostile and friendly alien races. No human has set foot on Mars--yet! But as we gather more and more knowledge of Mars, the possibility of a manned mission to Mars, and perhaps even a long-term human presence there, becomes more and more real. Ron Miller's book *Curiosity's Mission on Mars: Exploring the Red Planet* introduces the Curiosity rover, which has, for almost 2 years, been roving about Mars gathering data and increasing our knowledge of Mars. The Curiosity is the latest in a series of Mars missions, which has included rovers and orbiting vessels. None of the predecessors, however, have gathered as much or as important information as what Curiosity has and will continue to do. Although *Curiosity's Mission on Mars* is written for older elementary school and middle school students, and will surely find a home in school libraries, there is plenty here to interest readers of all ages. Younger readers may be put off by some of the more technical sections of the text, but the book is arranged with plenty of sidebars, photos, and illustrations to invite the casual reader who might not read the book straight through. I enjoyed the accessibility of the content that did not insult the reader. Clearly Miller is appealing to

readers interested in space exploration, and doesn't skimp on basic scientific information. Hopefully his young readers will be inspired to work towards the ultimate goal: terraforming and colonization of Mars. With all that we are continuing to learn from Curiosity, science fiction is moving closer and closer to science fact. Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the complimentary electronic review copy!

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