

# Why Mars is Red

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*Abstract: It is hypothesized a reason why Mars is covered with iron oxide on the surface.*

It is empirically understood that Mars is red and contains a coat of iron oxide on its surface. It is also known that the majority of the atmosphere of Mars (95%) is carbon dioxide, which is one part carbon and two parts oxygen. It is also empirically known that iron exposed to oxygen will rust as this process is known as oxidation. Oxidation is sped up greatly when a meteorite enters the atmosphere of Mars, as the large majority of the iron meteorites glow brightly from the intense heat of friction entering its atmosphere. This intense heat ionizes the carbon dioxide and the iron meteorite which then neutralize again creating iron oxide. This iron oxide then gets sprinkled over the surface as a fine powder which completely covers this ancient mostly geologically inactive star making it red. A picture of a meteorite oxidizing is provided below and a picture of Mars covered in this iron oxide meteorite dust is provided on the next page.



