

My spaceship came to an abrupt halt on a red desert land. I was on a mission to Mars to change the Curiosity Rover's wheels. I had never been to Mars before. I was very excited to see how different Mars would be from Earth. I opened the spaceship door, and immediately the cold pierced through my skin. I looked at the temperature gauge. It showed -81°F outside. It was colder than a freezer on Earth!

I could not breathe! I quickly put on my spacesuit and checked the air quality meter and the pressure gauge. It showed 96% carbon dioxide, only 0.13% oxygen and just 7.5 millibars of atmospheric pressure! I stepped out to greet the Martians that had gathered around the spaceship. They looked at me like I was an alien. I wanted to let them know that I was their friend so I offered them my hand. They shook it and I realized that the Martians greeting was very similar to ours. I wondered how the Martians could survive in the cold and with no oxygen. I bet their body had evolved to survive in these conditions. I realized that I needed the spacesuit to survive and if I took it off I would be dead because of the cold and lack of oxygen. The pressurized spacesuit also helped to keep my body fluids in a liquid state, otherwise it may boil over and evaporate due to the low pressure and I would die. The heavy air pressure would probably crush the Martians on earth.

We walked to their home to eat. Walking on Mars was like jumping on a trampoline in slow motion. I figured that it may be due to lower gravity. I was curious to weigh myself on Mars. I saw a weighing scale and jumped on it. I weighed only 40 pounds with the spacesuit. My earth weight is 100 pounds with the spacesuit.

I asked them if they had seen the Curiosity Rover which looked like a toy car. They guided me to the location where they had last sighted it. As we walked through the land, I saw the gigantic volcanoes and canyons. I told the Martians that earth had similar landforms but not as big. I did not see any water around. I asked the Martians and they told me that the water had dried up. I told them that $\frac{2}{3}$ of earth's surface is covered with water.

We had to climb over a hill on Mt. Sharp and saw the Curiosity Rover. I was surprised to see what it had collected. It had collected Silica which confirmed the presence of water in the past. I took the wheels off and placed the new ones on. I thanked the Martians for their help and bid them good-bye and boarded my spaceship to come back home to earth. My first mission to Mars was exciting, educational and a big success!