



Login | Register

Like 10

0

2

Sign up for our Free Newsletter

*

JOIN

NASA's Curiosity catches a first whiff of Martian air

Jennifer Keating

11/3/2012

Hoping for signs of life, the rover reveals that much of Mars' atmosphere is lost.

Since landing on Mars on August 5, NASA's rover Curiosity has been hard at work gathering data about Mars's environment and looking for signs of life.



Like Send

48,020 people like this. Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Now the rover has taken its first sample of Mars's air. Scientists and many of Curiosity's followers had hoped that the sample would reveal methane gas, a sign of past or present life on Mars. While this particular sample gave no indication of methane, it did reveal that much of Mars's atmosphere is gone -- at least half -- according to [USA Today](#). It also confirmed that meteorites which were thought to be pieces of Mars did, in fact, come from that planet.

"We will continue looking for methane," says Chris Webster of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

The absence of methane in Curiosity's present location of Gale crater, however, does not mean that it won't be found elsewhere on the Red Planet. As the [L.A. Times](#) reports, Curiosity still has much of its two-year mission left to make discoveries. The rover still has plenty of ground to cover along its mission to Mount Sharp, which is in the middle of Gale crater.

"At this time we don't have a positive detection of methane on Mars ... but that could change over time," Sushil Atreya, of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, said.

According to Curiosity's own [Twitter page](#), "I found clues to changes in Mars' atmosphere, but no methane... yet. More observations planned."

Average: 5 (4 votes) **Your rating: None**

Follow us on [Twitter!](#) Follow us on [Facebook!](#)

More Articles By Jennifer Keating

- [NASA's Curiosity catches a first whiff of Martian air](#)
- [Race to Recover: The ING New York City Marathon cancelled due to](#)

Featured Stories

- [Michelle Duggar of '19 Kids and Counting' gets sexy, modern hairstyle](#) (TheCelebrityCafe.com)
- [Leonardo DiCaprio, Erin Heatherton](#)

Popular Threads

- [George Lucas on selling Star Wars: 'Ready to move on'](#)
4 comments · 22 minutes ago
- [Top 10 celebrity bodies to be thankful for this Thanksgiving](#)
1 comment · 1 hour ago
- [Is 'A New Dawn' the title for 'Star Wars' ??](#)
1 comment · 5 hours ago
- [Madonna angers concert-goers again, this time by telling them to vote for President Obama](#)
42 comments · 2 days ago
- [Leonardo DiCaprio splits from Victoria's Secret Model girlfriend](#)
1 comment · 6 hours ago
- ['Supernatural' Recap: Blood Brother](#)
3 comments · 1 hour ago
- [No Doubt pulls 'Looking Hot' video after complaints](#)
1 comment · 7 hours ago
- ['Flight' directed by Robert Zemeckis](#)
2 comments · 20 hours ago
- [Octomom Nadya Suleman from rehab: I'm not involved with Michael Lohan](#)
4 comments · 1 day ago