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Mars on its Way to Become a Cold and Dry Planet: NASA

Submitted by [Pierrot Durand](#) on Tue, 04/09/2013 - 08:25



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NASA Curiosity rover experiment has revealed that Mars has lost its ancient atmosphere. Now, it has become colder and drier unlike it was used to be. Mars was warmer and wetter, but now it is on its way to become a cold and dry planet.

The [researchers](#) said that it was still red, but it was a more habitable world about four billion years ago. Mars has been reported to lose much of its original atmosphere. However, whatever is left remains quite active. The diverse findings on the red planet were reported at the European Geosciences Union 2013 General Assembly, Vienna.

Scientists said that they have found evidence of gas escaping from [the top](#) of atmosphere in Mars [leading](#) to lose much of its original atmosphere. Curiosity's Sample Analysis at Mars instrument studied an atmosphere sample last week with a process that concentrates selected gases.

The team found clear signs and strong evidence of atmosphere loss on Mars, said Sushil Atreya, a SAM co-investigator at the University of Michigan", Ann Arbor.

"After conjunction, Curiosity will be drilling into another rock where the rover is now, but that target has not yet been selected. The science team will discuss this over the conjunction period", said Mars Science [Laboratory](#) Project Scientist John Grotzinger, of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.

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