



# $\pi$ IN THE SKY<sup>6</sup>

Can you weather through the math needed to size up this killer dust storm on Mars?  
It's not rocket science when you've got pi to guide you.

Explore the full NASA Pi Day Challenge at:  
[jpl.nasa.gov/edu/nasapidaychallenge](http://jpl.nasa.gov/edu/nasapidaychallenge)

APRIL 2018

## DEADLY DUST

In the summer of 2018, a large dust storm enshrouded Mars, blocking visibility over a large portion of the planet. The thick dust covered almost all of the Mars surface, blocking the vital sunlight that NASA's solar-powered Opportunity rover needed to survive. In fact, the storm was so intense and lasted for so long that Opportunity, which had spent 14.5 years traveling around the Red Planet, never managed to regain consciousness and the mission had to come to an end.

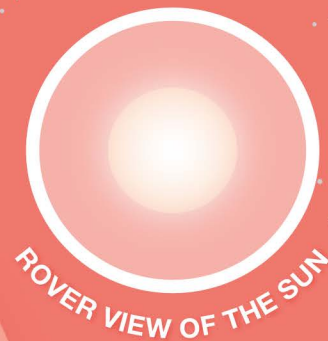
During the height of the storm, only the upper caldera of one of the solar system's largest volcanos, Olympus Mons, peeked out above the dust cloud. The diameter of Olympus Mons' caldera is approximately 70 km.

What percent of the Mars surface was covered in dust at that time?

LEARN MORE

[mars.nasa.gov/mer](http://mars.nasa.gov/mer)

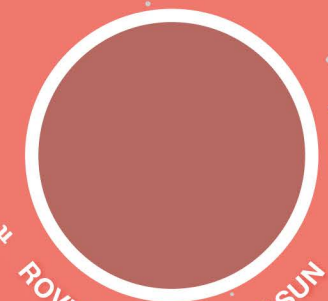
OLYMPUS  
MONS



ROVER VIEW OF THE SUN

JULY 2018

OLYMPUS  
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