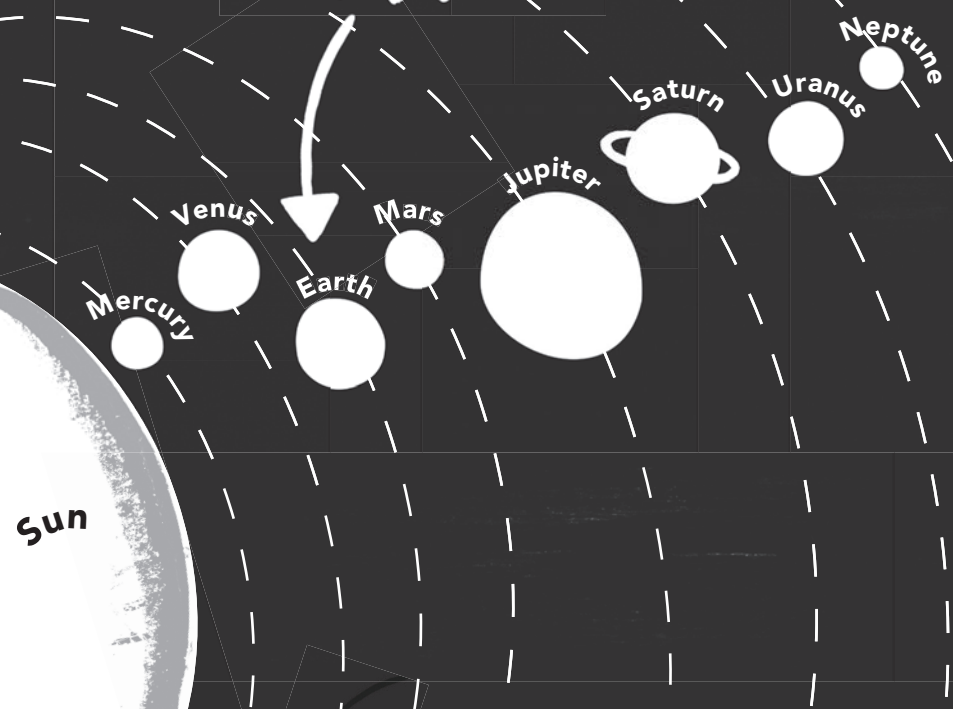


GOING THE DISTANCE

You've got a long journey ahead. Let's work out how far it is from Earth to Mars. But wait, the distance keeps on changing! Can you find out why?

Clue: Earth = 1.0 AU
or 150 million
kilometres from
the sun



It takes between 150 and 300 days to get to Mars from Earth! Why does the journey time change like this? And when is the best time to launch your rocket to Mars?



Zap to learn
about orbits

Scientists measure the distance from the sun in Astronomical Units (AU). The clue on the left gives you the distance when Earth and Mars are closest together. If Earth is 1.0 AU from the sun and Mars is approximately 1.5 AU from the sun, what is the distance between Earth and Mars?

..... AU or million kilometres