

*Cemented sand dunes, Opportunity rover*

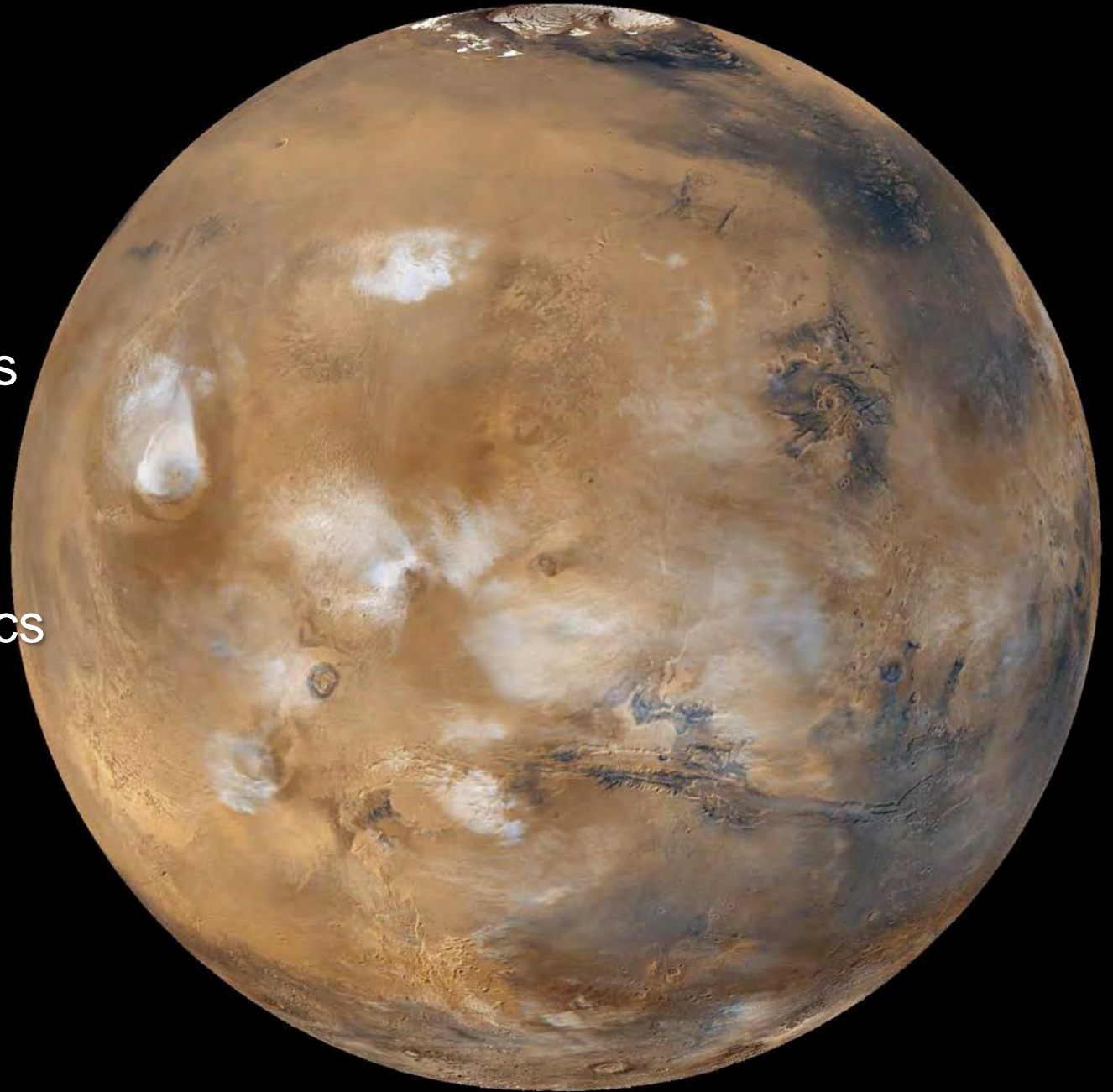
# Artist's rendition of an early Mars



*Based on MOLA data*

# Mars

- Water!
- No ocean basins
- No continents
- No plate tectonics



*Mars Global Surveyor*

**Why don't other planets have  
continents?**

**Earth is special**

# Plate tectonics & water



Water weakens  
rock

Weak rocks  
promote plate  
tectonics

Results in  
continents

And life?