

The cover art for 'Mission: Red Planet' is a vibrant, steampunk-style illustration. The scene is set on a red, rocky planet under a bright, hazy orange sky. In the foreground, a large, ornate red and gold rocket ship stands on a platform. An astronaut in a white suit is climbing a set of stairs leading into the rocket's open hatch. To the right, a complex industrial facility with multiple domes and smokestacks is built on a cliffside. In the background, another rocket is seen launching into the sky. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border of blue pipes and valves.

# MISSION: RED PLANET™

RULES OF PLAY

# MISSION: RED PLANET

The year is 1888. Automated probes sent to the Red Planet have transmitted definitive evidence of priceless resources beneath the planet's surface. Among these resources are two new kinds of ore: celerium and sylvanite. Celerium has the capability to become a combustible energy source that is one thousand times more powerful than the modern steam engine, thus paving the way for exploring the rest of the solar system. Sylvanite, a material more dense than anything found on Earth, holds untapped potential of its own.

The probes also found ice on the planet's surface, which could be used to create an atmosphere, allowing the planet to be fully colonized. You are the leader of a mining corporation, and you must control the ore deposits hidden beneath the Red Planet's soil in order to exploit these new resources. Your journey cannot wait any longer...to Mars!

## GAME OVERVIEW

In *Mission: Red Planet*, two to six players assume the roles of Mars-bound mining corporations in a Victorian steampunk era. Players send astronauts to explore various zones of Mars, compete for majority in their zone, and mine the planet's valuable resources.

## ASSEMBLING THE ROUND TRACKER

Assemble the round tracker as shown in the image below.



## OBJECT OF THE GAME

Players can gain points in several ways, such as by mining resources and completing mission cards. At the end of the game, the player with the most points wins.

## COMPONENTS

1 Game Board of Mars



consists of 4 pieces

1 Lost in Space Memorial



1 Moon of Phobos



132 Plastic Astronauts



22 for each color

1 Round Tracker

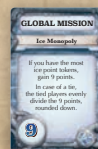


20 Destination Tokens



2 for each zone

1 Global Mission Card



54 Character Cards



9 for each color

36 Ship Cards



1 Launchpad



consists of 3-6 dock pieces

11 Resource Tokens



5 Ice



3 Sylvanite



3 Celerium

86 Point Tokens



40 Ice



23 Sylvanite



23 Celerium

30 Event Cards



13 Missions



13 Discoveries



4 Actions

## SETUP DIAGRAM (4-PLAYER GAME)



## SETUP

1. **Prepare Game Board:** Connect the four pieces of Mars and place the assembled planet in the center of the play area. Place Phobos and the Lost in Space Memorial near Mars.
2. **Construct Launchpad:** Connect dock pieces so that there are a number of docks equal to the number of players. Use the end cap docks for the left-most and right-most docks of the launchpad.
3. **Prepare Supply:** Place the destination tokens within reach of all players, and sort the point tokens into piles by type. Place the "Ice Monopoly" global mission card faceup near the supply.
4. **Prepare Ships:** Shuffle the ship cards to create the ship deck and place it near the launchpad. Draw a number of ship cards equal to the number of players in the game and place them faceup, one ship at each dock of the launchpad.  
  
If a drawn ship has an unknown destination, replace it with a new card, shuffling the unknown destination ship back into the ship deck. If a Phobos-bound ship has not been drawn, place a Phobos destination token on the ship at the right-most dock.
5. **Choose Colors:** Each player chooses one color to use for this game. He gathers the nine character cards and all of the plastic astronauts of that color. His starting hand of cards contains all nine of his character cards.
6. **Place Starting Astronauts:** Take one astronaut from each player and randomly place one on each ship at the launchpad. The player whose astronaut is on the left-most dock is the first player and takes the round tracker, setting it to "1."
7. **Place Resources:** Randomly place one resource token facedown in each zone of Mars and on Phobos. There will be one resource token remaining, which is placed facedown near the supply.
8. **Deal Starting Mission:** Shuffle the mission cards and deal two cards to each player. Each player chooses one card to keep, placing it facedown in his play area, and places the unchosen card facedown on top of the undealt mission cards. Chosen mission cards remain hidden from other players until the end of the game.
9. **Create Event Deck:** Shuffle the discovery cards, the action cards, and all remaining mission cards together to create the event deck and place it facedown near the token supply.

# PLAYING THE GAME

The game is played over a series of rounds, with a few different phases occurring in between certain rounds. The round tracker displays the order in which the rounds and phases occur.

## THE GAME ROUND

There are 10 rounds during the game, each indicated by a number on the round tracker. During a round, each player secretly chooses one character card from his hand and, later in the round, resolves its effect. Each character card has a unique effect, such as placing astronauts on ships, drawing event cards, or even destroying a docked ship.

A round consists of these six steps:

1. Choose Character
2. Resolve Character Effects
3. Land Launched Ships
4. Draw New Docked Ships
5. Assign New First Player
6. Advance Round Tracker

### 1. CHOOSE CHARACTER

Each player simultaneously chooses one character card from his hand and places it facedown in front of him. When all players have chosen their card, continue to the next step.

### 2. RESOLVE CHARACTER EFFECTS

During this step, players reveal and resolve their characters' effects, and docked ships can become full and launch.

Each character card has a number in the upper-left corner of the card, which determines when the card is revealed. The first player begins reciting the "countdown to blastoff," announcing each character number starting with the number "9" (the Recruiter). Each player whose facedown card matches the announced character number reveals it, flipping it faceup, and resolves its effect. If two or more players reveal the same character, they resolve their character's effect in clockwise order, starting with the first player.



Character Order Number

After all players who revealed the announced character have resolved its effect, or if no player chose the announced character, the first player continues reciting the countdown by announcing the next character in descending order, and so on until all players have revealed their chosen character cards.

When resolving character effects, they must be resolved from top to bottom in the order written on the card. Played character cards remain faceup in front of the owner and visible for all players to see.

**Note:** Once a character is used, it cannot be used again until the player plays the Recruiter card, which returns all of his played cards to his hand.

A ship is full when the number of astronauts on it is equal to its capacity number. When a docked ship becomes full, it launches. The first player slides the ship card away from the launchpad to indicate that the ship has launched (see images below).



Ship Capacity



Docked

Launched

Ships launch only if they become full or due to a game effect, such as the Secret Agent. Ships that are not full stay docked at the launchpad.

### 3. LAND LAUNCHED SHIPS

Each launched ship lands on Mars, unloading all astronauts aboard that ship in the indicated zone. If there is a destination token covering the destination printed on the ship card, the ship instead lands in the zone indicated on the token.

When an astronaut is placed in a zone with a facedown resource token, the resource token is flipped faceup, revealing which resource is present in that zone.

After landing a ship, place it faceup next to the ship deck in the ship discard pile. If it had a destination token, return it to the supply.

### 4. DRAW NEW DOCKED SHIPS

During this step, new ships are docked at the launchpad. For each open dock at the launchpad, the first player draws one ship card and places it faceup at an open dock. If the ship deck is depleted, shuffle the discard pile and place it facedown to create a new deck.

### 5. ASSIGN NEW FIRST PLAYER

The player who resolved his character effect **last** during this round takes the round tracker, becoming the new first player.

### 6. ADVANCE ROUND TRACKER

The first player slides the gauge clockwise until the pointer lines up with the next notch. The icon visible in the window indicates which round or phase occurs next.



## PRODUCTION PHASE

In the game there are three production phases indicated on the round tracker. During a production phase, each zone with a faceup resource token produces point tokens of its resource type equal to the number of dots shown in the production phase icon.



Each zone produces one point token during the first production phase.



Each zone produces two point tokens during the second production phase.



Each zone produces three point tokens during the third production phase.

Then, players receive point tokens based on majority in each zone. If only one player has the most astronauts in a zone, he receives all the point tokens from that zone. If two or more players tie for the most astronauts in a zone, the tied players evenly distribute the point tokens from that zone. Any remaining point tokens stay in the zone and can possibly be won at a later time. If there are no astronauts in a zone, the point tokens stay in that zone.

At the end of each production phase, the first player advances the round tracker to the next notch.

**Example:** There are two players tied in a zone with three point tokens, so the two tied players each receive one of those point tokens, and the third point token stays in the zone.

**Example:** There are three players tied in a zone with two point tokens, so the three tied players do not receive any of those point tokens, and those tokens stay in the zone.

## REVEAL DISCOVERY PHASE

The first player flips all discovery cards in play faceup. Each discovery card effect resolves during the phase indicated by the icon in the lower-right corner of the card, as shown below.



Reveal Discovery Phase



Third Production Phase



Final Scoring Phase

At the end of the reveal discovery phase, the first player advances the round tracker to the next notch.

## FINAL SCORING PHASE

Players reveal their mission cards and determine if they were completed. The player(s) with the most ice point tokens gain points for completing the “Ice Monopoly” global mission. Then, each player calculates his final score as follows:

- ◆ He adds points from his completed missions.
- ◆ He adds the total value of all his collected point tokens.
- ◆ He adds or subtracts points from discoveries that affect him.

Players compare final scores, and the player with the highest score wins the game. In case of a tie, the tied player who has the largest quantity of point tokens (regardless of value) wins the game. If there is still a tie, the tied players share the victory.

## EVENT CARDS

There are three types of event cards: discoveries, missions, and actions. Event cards are drawn when dealing starting missions during setup and by the Scientist's effect.

Discoveries are scientific phenomena or geographical features that can be found on Mars. When a player draws a discovery card, he assigns it facedown to any outer zone of Mars by physically sliding a portion of the card under the board. At the end of the game, discovery cards provide either a positive or negative effect (e.g., that zone produces more point tokens).



A discovery card assigned to Hellas.

Missions are secret objectives that award points to the owner if he completes them. When a player draws a mission card, he looks at it and keeps it facedown in his play area. It remains hidden until the final scoring phase.

Actions are special effects that can occur at different times in the game. When a player draws an action card, he looks at it and keeps it facedown in his play area. He keeps it hidden until the text specifies when to play it.

## DESTINATION TOKENS

Destination tokens are used by the Pilot's effect and by the player who places the first astronaut in a ship with an **UNKNOWN** destination. When either of these situations occur, the active player takes any destination token from the supply and places it on top of the ship's printed destination. This ship is now bound for the destination printed on the token.



Unknown Destination Icon

The destination token supply is limited to two tokens per zone. When a ship with a destination token lands, return the token to the supply.

## LOST IN SPACE MEMORIAL

The Lost in Space Memorial enshrines the valiant astronauts who died at some point during their Martian expedition. The Femme Fatale and Soldier effects directly kill astronauts, who are then sent to the Lost in Space Memorial. Also, any astronauts aboard a docked ship that is destroyed by a Saboteur are killed and sent to the Lost in Space Memorial. The Lost in Space Memorial is not a zone.

## PHOBOS

Phobos acts as an outpost for colonists headed to Mars. Phobos behaves like the other zones on Mars **except** that it is not adjacent to any other zone and discovery cards cannot be assigned to it.

## ICE MONOPOLY MISSION

The “Ice Monopoly” mission is a global mission, meaning it can be completed by any player. During final scoring, the player with the most ice point tokens has completed the mission and gains 9 points. In case of a tie for the most ice tokens, the tied players divide the 9 points among them (rounded down).

## CARD CLARIFICATIONS

This section addresses rule questions that may arise during the game.



### CHARACTER CARDS

- ◆ All character effects are mandatory and must be fully resolved, if possible. If it is not possible to fully resolve the effect, then it should be resolved as fully as possible. The Travel Agent's effect, which must be fully resolved or not at all, is the only exception to this rule.
- ◆ A player must fully resolve his character's effect before any full ships can launch.

*Example: The red player chooses the Saboteur. When he reveals it during the next step, there is only one docked ship at the launchpad. He must place one of his astronauts on the docked ship, which becomes full. Then, he must destroy that ship before it launches.*

- ◆ **9 Recruiter:** The player takes all of his played character cards back into his hand, including the Recruiter card.
- ◆ **8 Explorer:** To make a move, the player moves one of his astronauts from its current zone to an adjacent zone. The same astronaut can be moved multiple times. When a player moves an astronaut to a zone with a facedown resource token, he flips that token faceup.
- ◆ **7 Scientist:** After looking at a facedown discovery card, the player returns it facedown to its assigned zone. If all outer zones already have a discovery card assigned to them and the player draws a discovery card, he discards it faceup next to the event deck and looks at a facedown discovery card in play.
- ◆ **6 Secret Agent:** The player can force a ship that has zero astronauts on board to launch.
- ◆ **5 Saboteur:** All astronauts on a destroyed ship are killed and placed on the Lost in Space Memorial, and then the destroyed ship is discarded.
- ◆ **4 Femme Fatale:** The "replace" effect can target astronauts in a docked ship, a launched ship, or any zone of Mars (including Phobos) in which at least one of his own astronauts is already present. The replaced astronaut is killed and placed on the Lost in Space Memorial.
- ◆ **3 Travel Agent:** If there is not a docked ship with room for at least three more astronauts, the player ignores this effect and skips his turn.
- ◆ **2 Soldier:** The "kill" effect can target astronauts in any zone except Syrtis Major and Valles Marineris. A player can kill his own astronauts. Astronauts that are moved at the same time are not required to go to the same zone. The player must move at least one astronaut.
- ◆ **1 Pilot:** The "place a destination token" effect can target either a docked ship or a launched ship. Destination tokens can be placed on top of other destination tokens, thus changing that ship's destination again.

## EVENT CARDS

### ACTION CARDS

- ◆ Action cards are kept hidden together with mission cards.

### DISCOVERY CARDS

- ◆ Discovery cards can be assigned to any zone **except** Phobos, Syrtis Major, and Valles Marineris.
- ◆ Each zone (including Tritonis Sinus) can have at most one discovery card assigned to it, and assigned discovery cards cannot be removed, overridden, or replaced.
- ◆ Discovery cards have effects that can resolve when revealed (during the reveal discovery phase), during the third production phase, or during the final scoring phase.
- ◆ **Even Ground & Uneven Ground:** These card effects apply only during the third production phase. During the final scoring phase, each player is treated as having his actual number of astronauts in the zone.
- ◆ **Mining Incident vs. Synergy:** When "Mining Incident" affects a zone that is also affected by "Synergy," "Mining Incident" takes precedence; no point tokens are placed in that zone.
- ◆ **Subterfuge:** In case of a tie for second-most astronauts, those tied players evenly distribute the point tokens. In case of a tie for most astronauts, those tied players evenly distribute the point tokens as normal. If only one player has astronauts in this zone, the point tokens stay in the zone.

### MISSION CARDS

- ◆ A few mission cards award the owning player "1/2/4/7 points" for having "at least 1 astronaut in 1/2/3/4 of the red zones." Depending on how many zones in which his astronauts are present, the owning player gains points matching the sequence (e.g., if the player is present in only one of the red zones, he gains 1 point; if the player is present in all four red zones, he gains 7 points).
- ◆ A few mission cards award the owning player points if he has "the most" of something. If the owning player is **tied** for the most, the mission counts as being completed and he gains the points indicated on the card.
- ◆ **Strategic Zones:** The owning player gains points for this mission card if he has the highest number of total astronauts in Syrtis Major and Valles Marineris. He is not required to have majority in either zone.



## 2-PLAYER VARIANT

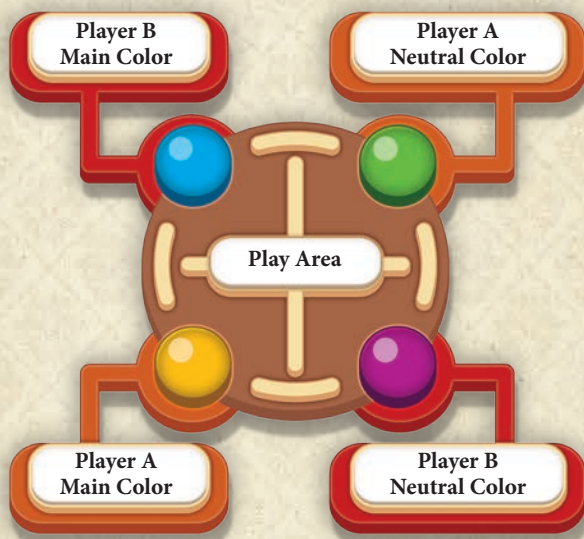
To play the game with two players, the following rule changes apply.



### SETUP

Set up the two-player game as a four-player game with a few minor changes to the steps below, as well as one additional step:

- Choose Colors and Arrange Seating:** The players sit next to each other. Each player chooses one color to be his **MAIN COLOR** and the other to be his **NEUTRAL COLOR**. He takes the nine character cards of both colors and all the plastic astronauts of both colors. He places the components of his main color in front of him and the components of his neutral color across from him (see diagram below).



*2-Player Seating Arrangement*

- Deal Starting Mission:** Separate the mission cards, shuffle them, and deal two cards to each **main color**. Each player chooses one card to keep, placing it facedown in front of him, and places the unchosen card facedown near the undealt mission cards. Chosen mission cards remain hidden from other players until the end of the game.
- Prepare Neutral Character Decks:** Each player prepares his own neutral deck. First, remove the Recruiter, Explorer, Femme Fatale, Soldier, and two additional random character cards from the neutral deck. Shuffle the six removed cards and place them facedown. Then, without looking at the remaining three neutral character cards, place them facedown on top of the deck in any order.

## PLAYING THE 2-PLAYER GAME

The two-player game plays very similarly to the standard game with a few minor changes.

### PLAYING THE NEUTRAL COLOR

Each round, before the player chooses his main color's character, he draws the top card of his neutral character deck and looks at it, without showing it to his opponent. He places that neutral card facedown near its deck and then chooses his main color's character card, placing it facedown in front of him.

### RESOLVING NEUTRAL CHARACTERS

When resolving a neutral color's character effect, the controlling player makes all decisions for that neutral color (where to place astronauts, which ship to destroy, etc.). The controlling player can make a choice that causes his neutral color to kill or replace its own astronauts.

When resolving a neutral Scientist, the controlling player draws the event card. If it is a discovery card, he can assign it to any available outer zone. If it is a mission card or an action card, he returns it to the game box without showing it to his opponent.

When resolving a neutral Recruiter, the controlling player first returns that Recruiter card to the game box. Then, he shuffles the other eight neutral character cards and places them facedown to create a new character deck for that neutral color.

Because character effects are mandatory, there may arise situations when a neutral character effect does not help (or even harms) its controlling player (e.g., the neutral character is a Soldier and the only player who has astronauts in outer zones of Mars is the controlling player).

### POINTS FOR NEUTRAL COLORS

When resolving event cards, treat the neutral colors as separate players for the purposes of counting resources and scoring points. Neutral colors can complete the "Ice Monopoly" global mission.

When a **color** receives point tokens, they are placed **in that color's play area**. Neutral colors receive point tokens for themselves, so they are not shared with the controlling player's main color.

## WINNING THE GAME

When players compare final scores, they do so for each color. The color with the highest score wins. If either neutral color has the highest score, then both players lose. Otherwise, the player whose main color has the highest score wins.

In case of a tie between a main color and a neutral color, the main color wins.

In case of a tie between both main colors, the color who has the largest quantity of point tokens (regardless of value) wins the game. If there is still a tie, the tied players share the victory.

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Special thanks to the dozens of French playtesters who helped refine the earliest prototypes of the game.

## QUICK REFERENCE

### ROUND SEQUENCE

1. Choose Character
2. Resolve Character Effects
3. Land Launched Ships
4. Draw New Docked Ships
5. Assign New First Player
6. Advance Round Tracker

### PHASE ICONS



1st Production Phase  
(one token)



2nd Production Phase  
(two tokens)



3rd Production Phase  
(three tokens)



Reveal Discovery Phase



Final Scoring Phase

### RESOURCE TOKEN DISTRIBUTION

5



Ice

3



Sylvanite

3



Celerium

### EVENT DECK COMPOSITION

DISCOVERY

13

MISSION

13

ACTION

4



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