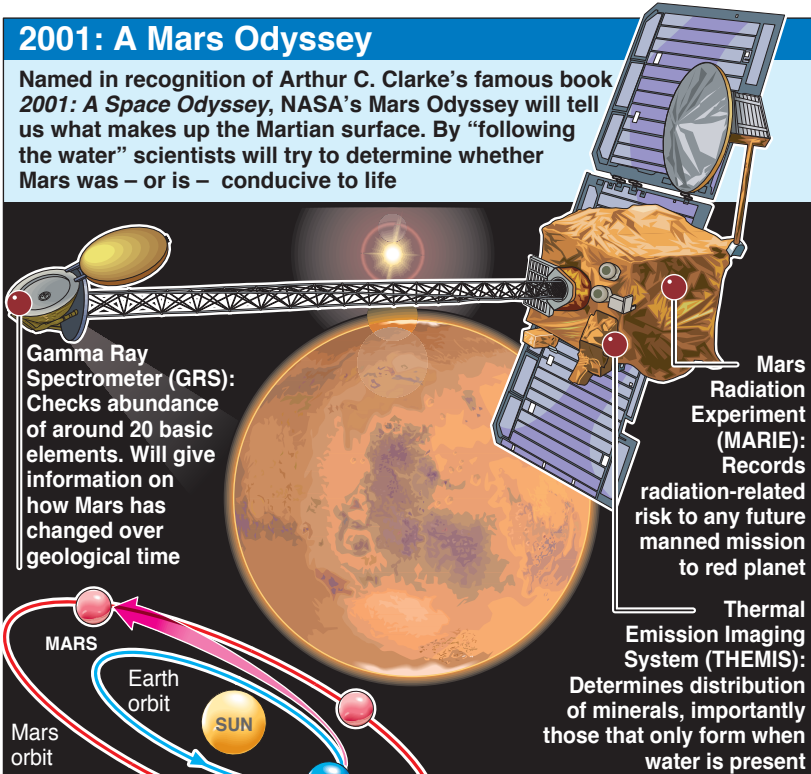


# 2001: A Mars Odyssey

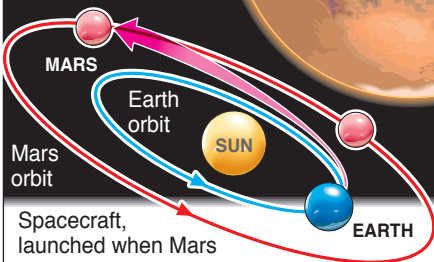
Named in recognition of Arthur C. Clarke's famous book *2001: A Space Odyssey*, NASA's Mars Odyssey will tell us what makes up the Martian surface. By "following the water" scientists will try to determine whether Mars was – or is – conducive to life



**Gamma Ray Spectrometer (GRS):**  
Checks abundance of around 20 basic elements. Will give information on how Mars has changed over geological time

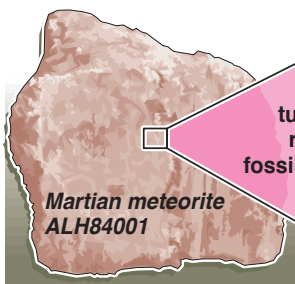
**Mars Radiation Experiment (MARIE):**  
Records radiation-related risk to any future manned mission to red planet

**Thermal Emission Imaging System (THEMIS):**  
Determines distribution of minerals, importantly those that only form when water is present



Spacecraft, launched when Mars ahead of Earth, catching up on opposite side of sun

The famous 4.5 billion-year-old rock **ALH84001**, found in Antarctica in 1984, offers strongest evidence yet that life may have existed on Mars



**Martian meteorite ALH84001**

Rock contains tube shapes resembling fossilised Earth bacteria

