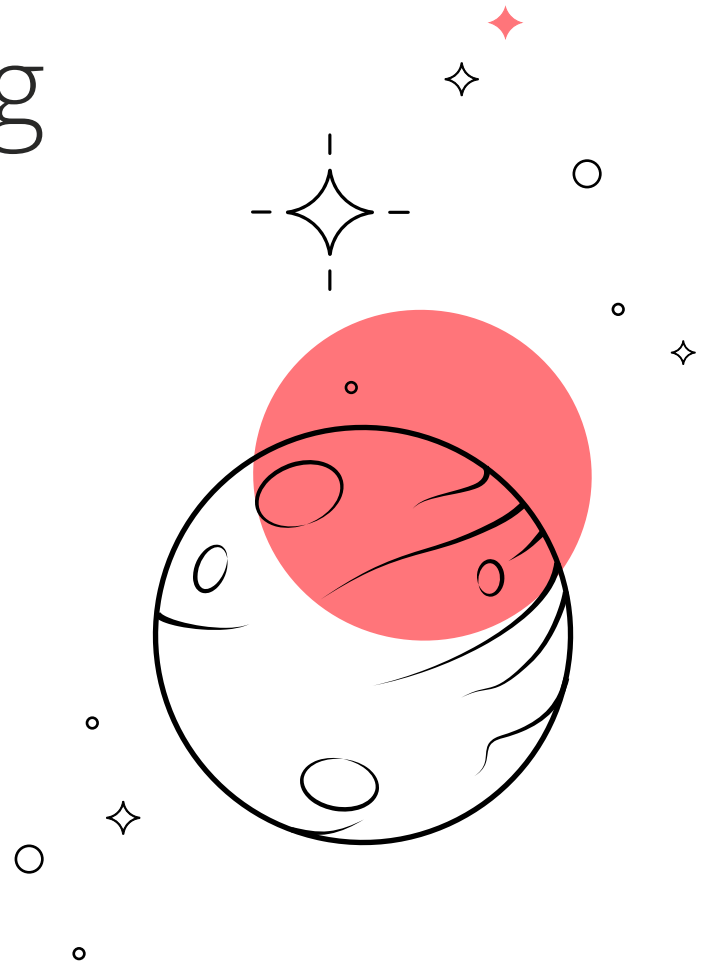


Scientific discoveries...

Mars is making a humming sound!

In November 2018, a spacecraft arrived on Mars's dusty surface to take the planets 'pulse'

- This is known as the InSight lander, and it showed evidence of a Martian hum – a quiet, constant drone that seems to pulse to the beat of 'masquakes' (Mars' version of earthquakes) that rattle the planet.
- Since then, the craft has been using an extremely sensitive seismometer, and an array of additional instruments, to take readings that are helping scientists understand Mars' geological activity and internal structure.
- The hum's origin remains unknown. We know that Earth has many background vibrations, like the roar of winds and crashing of waves. But the music of Mars vibrates at a higher pitch than most natural hums on Earth.
- Analysis suggests the Mars hum is related to the planet's roaring winds, and seems to strengthen with the crack of a distant 'marsquake'.
- The noise is not fully understood, and it is thought that perhaps the geology underneath the lander amplifies one particular tone, or that the lander itself might even be generating the noise. Further investigation is needed to discover more about this hum.
- "It's extremely puzzling" says **Bruce Banerdt**, the principal investigator of the InSight mission, "we have no consensus idea what this is."



Why not expand on this discovery topic and take a look at our GCSE Physics free sample, 'Life cycles of stars'. This unit looks at how stars with a similar mass to the Sun change over time, as well as how stars with much larger masses than the Sun change, and how the balance between thermal expansion and gravity affect stars. You can explore this free sample and many more in our [Pearson Edexcel GCSE Science page](#).

