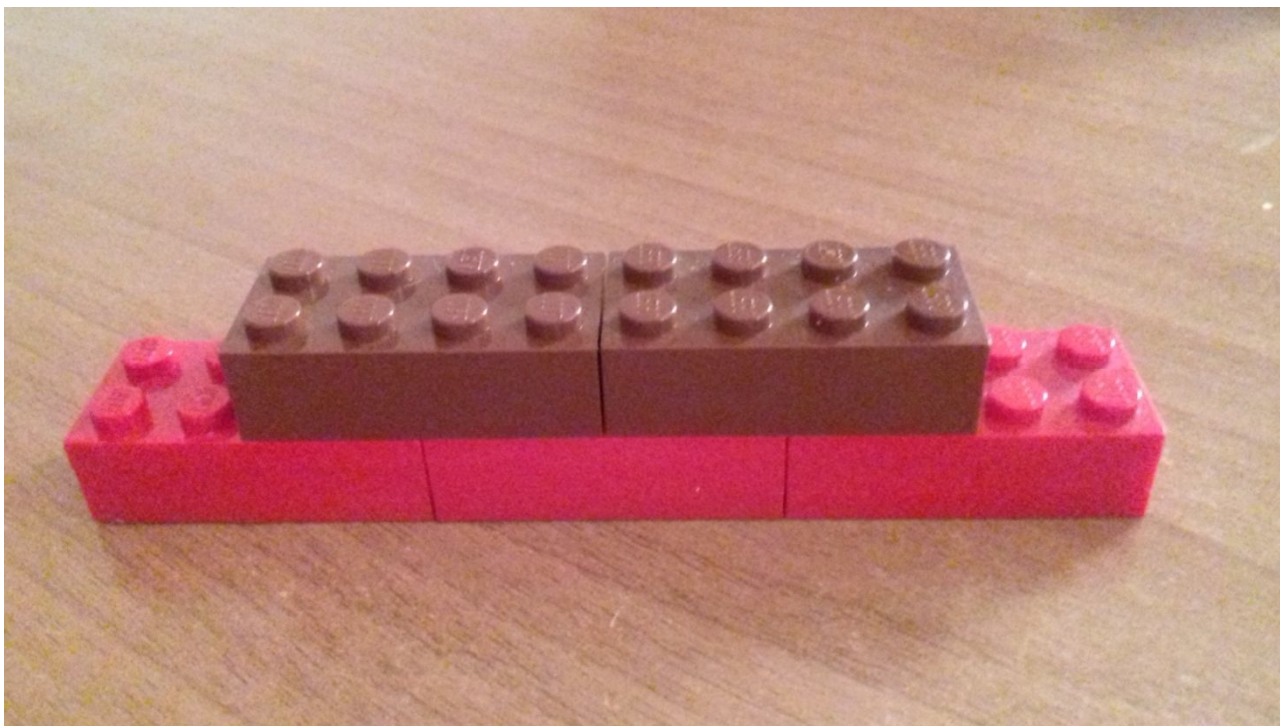


Mars, the Red planet



Mars is often called the 'Red Planet', because it appears in the sky as an orange-red star. The color caused the ancient Greeks and Romans to name it after their god of war. In the context of our inquiry about Mars environment, we discovered that its surface is covered with rust, and more specifically, with Fe_2O_3 . Rusting is a chemical reaction where oxygen from the air combines with iron. But, Mars does not have oxygen. So, we discovered that billions of years ago, Mars had an oxygen-rich atmosphere like Earth has now.

We expressed this chemical reaction with Lego molecules and we presented it in the National Educational Robotics contest for elementary school students 2016.

Resources: https://www.esa.int/esaKIDSen/SEM3L6WJD1E_OurUniverse_0.html

https://edgerton.mit.edu/sites/default/files/media/AtomKeyLayoutMat12-30-13_0_0.pdf

https://edgerton.mit.edu/sites/default/files/media/laminated_sheets_reactants_products_12-18-09.pdf