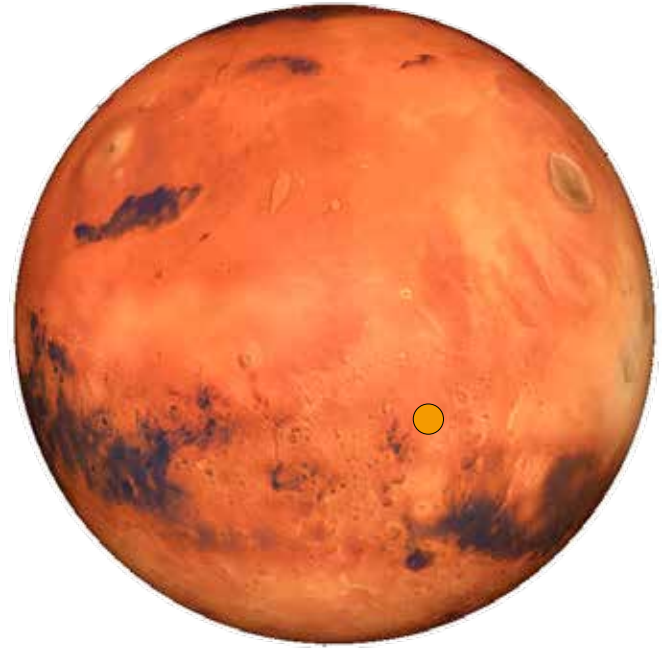




Earth

- —Cradle of Humankind, Swartkrans  
earliest known man-made fire (1 million years ago)
- —Barberton mountains  
earliest known fossil bacteria (3.5 billion years)



Mars

- —Mars; possible earliest known microbial life (bacteria)  
(4 billion years ago)

### Corridors between Earth & Mars

Life on Earth sparked from Mars? and Earthlings travelling to Mars in search of life, in the form of living or fossil microbes.

#### Controlled use of fire

1. There is evidence from a cave in South Africa (Swartkrans, in the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site) for the controlled use of fire, at least one million years ago.
2. Without the controlled use of fire, it would not be possible to have a rocket.
3. Without a rocket it would not be possible to explore the Moon or Mars in the way that it has been possible in recent decades, involving people such as Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and others.
4. So the first small step in the direction of lunar and Martian exploration began in Africa, more than a million years ago.

#### Microbian life (bacteria)

1. There is evidence for the existence of microbial forms of life on earth, at about 3.5 billion years ago (include photo from Maarten de Witt).
2. It has been suggested that there were microbial forms of life (bacteria) on Mars about 4 billion years ago (Joe Kirschvink, Caltech).
3. There is a need to explore corridors of life, between Mars and Earth, and vice versa (in the context of humans going to Mars to explore the possibility of life there now, and the possibility of life on Mars in the distant past).

Francis Thackeray  
10-18 Dec 2015  
With Ditshego Madopi &  
John Anderson  
(To be developed as an epilogue to  
**'Africa Alive Corridors'**)

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