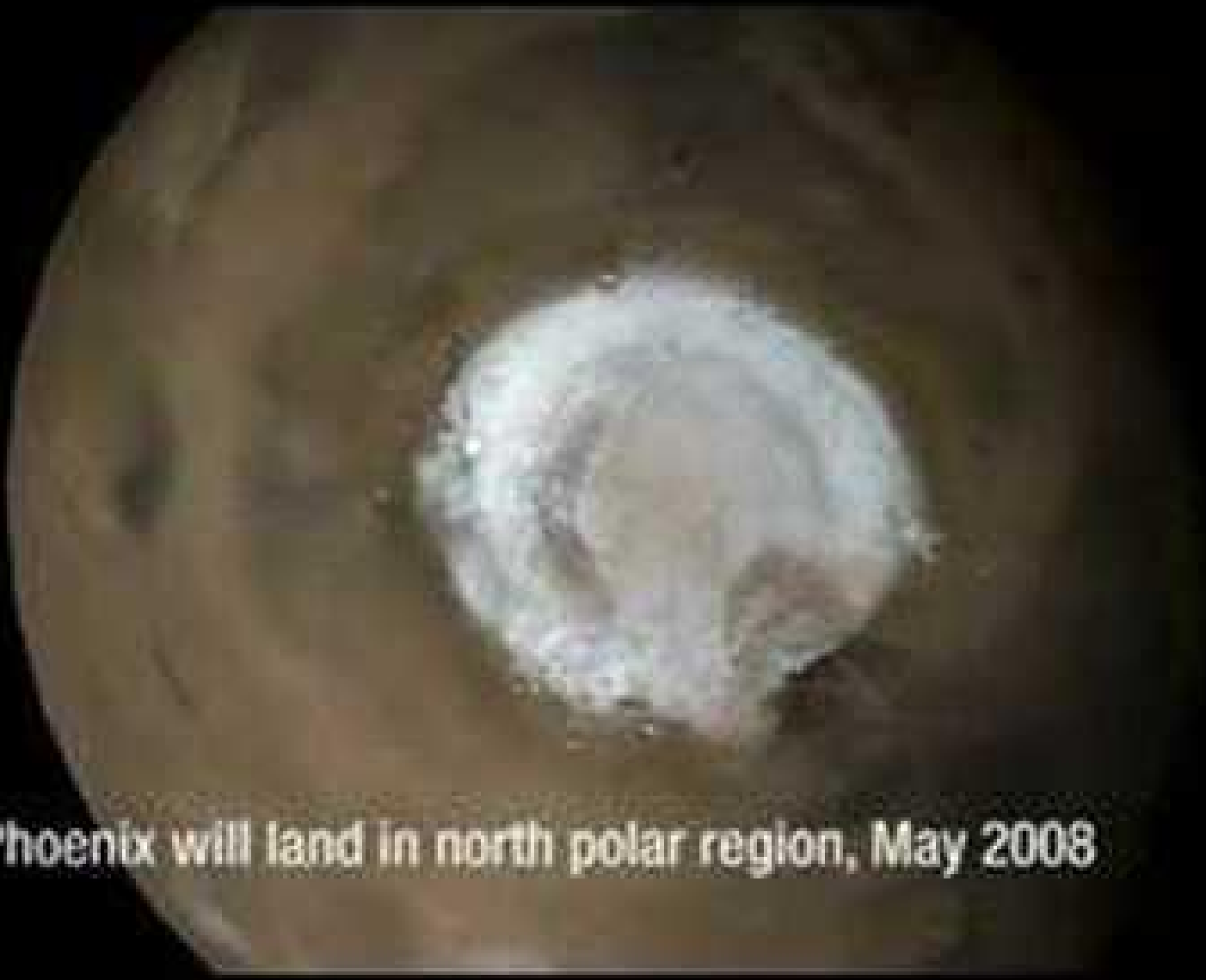
Phoenix will land in north polar region, May 2008

1
00:00:06,500 --> 00:00:04,460
what is up for December this is the best

2
00:00:09,289 --> 00:00:06,510
month to look at Mars because Mars is

3
00:00:11,110 --> 00:00:09,299
going to be closest to Earth I'm Jane

4
00:00:14,449 --> 00:00:11,120
Houston Jones at NASA's Jet Propulsion

5
00:00:16,430 --> 00:00:14,459
Laboratory in Pasadena California earth

6
00:00:18,890 --> 00:00:16,440
is a little closer to the Sun so it

7
00:00:20,660 --> 00:00:18,900
orbits a little faster and Mars is a

8
00:00:23,090 --> 00:00:20,670
little further away from the Sun so it

9
00:00:25,310 --> 00:00:23,100
orbits a little bit slower but every two

10
00:00:28,150 --> 00:00:25,320
years or so we get really close to Mars

11
00:00:31,730 --> 00:00:28,160
and we have what's called opposition

12
00:00:34,369 --> 00:00:31,740
that means that Mars and the Sun are on

13
00:00:37,220 --> 00:00:34,379

opposite sides of the earth if you just

14
00:00:39,829 --> 00:00:37,230
step outside and look to the east after

15
00:00:42,290 --> 00:00:39,839
the Sun sets you'll see a bright orange

16
00:00:44,119 --> 00:00:42,300
star-like object and that's Mars and

17
00:00:46,880 --> 00:00:44,129
it's brighter than anything else in the

18
00:00:48,829 --> 00:00:46,890
sky there's nothing else brighter some

19
00:00:50,840 --> 00:00:48,839
of the features through a telescope will

20
00:00:53,419 --> 00:00:50,850
look sort of like a peachy color and

21
00:00:55,910 --> 00:00:53,429
kind of a dark gray color on some of the

22
00:00:59,059 --> 00:00:55,920
other features to see those colors you

23
00:01:00,410 --> 00:00:59,069
really will need a larger telescope but

24
00:01:01,819 --> 00:01:00,420
you'll still be able to see some

25
00:01:04,819 --> 00:01:01,829
contrast through the very smallest

26
00:01:06,980 --> 00:01:04,829
telescope the north polar area of Mars

27
00:01:09,200 --> 00:01:06,990
is really interesting and really worth

28
00:01:12,560 --> 00:01:09,210
looking at this month because Mars is

29
00:01:14,719 --> 00:01:12,570
just ending it's winter and during the

30
00:01:18,139 --> 00:01:14,729
winter time on Mars is North Pole

31
00:01:21,139 --> 00:01:18,149
there's a cloud that covers the ice cap

32
00:01:24,620 --> 00:01:21,149
as Mars finishes winter and begins

33
00:01:27,170 --> 00:01:24,630
spring this this polar cloud starts to

34
00:01:29,929 --> 00:01:27,180
dissipate and underneath the cloud is

35
00:01:31,670 --> 00:01:29,939
where the polar ice cap is now we're not

36
00:01:33,740 --> 00:01:31,680
sure if we'll be able to see it in

37
00:01:36,349 --> 00:01:33,750
december or not but you won't know

38
00:01:38,510 --> 00:01:36,359

without looking this month if you want

39
00:01:40,700 --> 00:01:38,520
to see the site of mars where the rover

40
00:01:42,740 --> 00:01:40,710
spirit is look at the beginning and at

41
00:01:44,569 --> 00:01:42,750
the end of the month and for opportunity

42
00:01:47,209 --> 00:01:44,579
you'll want to look at mars on the

43
00:01:49,580 --> 00:01:47,219
fifteenth you won't be able to see the

44
00:01:51,190 --> 00:01:49,590
rover's even with a telescope but it's

45
00:01:53,330 --> 00:01:51,200
really nice to know where they are

46
00:01:55,090 --> 00:01:53,340
besides the rover's there's several

47
00:01:57,349 --> 00:01:55,100
spacecraft that are orbiting the planet

48
00:01:59,850 --> 00:01:57,359
Mars Odyssey and Mars Reconnaissance

49
00:02:02,100 --> 00:01:59,860
Orbiter are just two of them

50
00:02:05,250 --> 00:02:02,110
the European Space Agency's Mars Express