



Rover Test Bed

1
00:00:03,830 --> 00:00:01,750
after six years of cruising and

2
00:00:06,470 --> 00:00:03,840
exploring the red planet with its twin

3
00:00:07,670 --> 00:00:06,480
opportunity the spirit rover's days may

4
00:00:09,910 --> 00:00:07,680
be numbered

5
00:00:11,990 --> 00:00:09,920
surpassing its intended lifespan by more

6
00:00:13,990 --> 00:00:12,000
than five and a half years the beloved

7
00:00:15,990 --> 00:00:14,000
robot energy source is depleting and

8
00:00:18,550 --> 00:00:16,000
come spring the rover could become

9
00:00:20,390 --> 00:00:18,560
inoperable nine months ago spirit's

10
00:00:22,070 --> 00:00:20,400
wheels broke through a crusty surface

11
00:00:23,910 --> 00:00:22,080
layer and became trapped in the loose

12
00:00:25,670 --> 00:00:23,920
sand hidden underneath

13
00:00:27,750 --> 00:00:25,680

efforts to free the rover have barely

14

00:00:30,310 --> 00:00:27,760

budgeted it and scientists fear they've

15

00:00:31,910 --> 00:00:30,320

run out of maneuvers to try this is

16

00:00:33,670 --> 00:00:31,920

worsened by the fact that the solar

17

00:00:35,750 --> 00:00:33,680

powered rover is trapped in mars

18

00:00:36,870 --> 00:00:35,760

southern hemisphere where it's currently

19

00:00:38,950 --> 00:00:36,880

autumn

20

00:00:40,310 --> 00:00:38,960

and where precious sunlight is declining

21

00:00:42,310 --> 00:00:40,320

each day

22

00:00:44,709 --> 00:00:42,320

additionally spirit is tilted in a way

23

00:00:46,310 --> 00:00:44,719

that does not offer its onboard panels

24

00:00:48,630 --> 00:00:46,320

the best position to collect the

25

00:00:51,189 --> 00:00:48,640

necessary solar energy to power its

26
00:00:53,910 --> 00:00:51,199
operations and generate enough heat to

27
00:00:55,750 --> 00:00:53,920
survive the planet's frigid winters

28
00:00:57,990 --> 00:00:55,760
scientists are still working to improve

29
00:01:00,069 --> 00:00:58,000
spirit's angle in the hopes that rover

30
00:01:02,389 --> 00:01:00,079
might be able to collect enough power to

31
00:01:03,349 --> 00:01:02,399
continue doing research from its stuck

32
00:01:06,630 --> 00:01:03,359
position

33
00:01:09,429 --> 00:01:06,640
something that lasts almost six years

34
00:01:11,270 --> 00:01:09,439
when it is only supposed to last 90 days

35
00:01:13,590 --> 00:01:11,280
you got to be joyful that that thing has

36
00:01:15,670 --> 00:01:13,600
been so tremendously successful

37
00:01:18,310 --> 00:01:15,680
meanwhile spirit's sister rover

38
00:01:20,149 --> 00:01:18,320

opportunity keeps rolling along

39

00:01:22,789 --> 00:01:20,159

currently it's making the seven mile