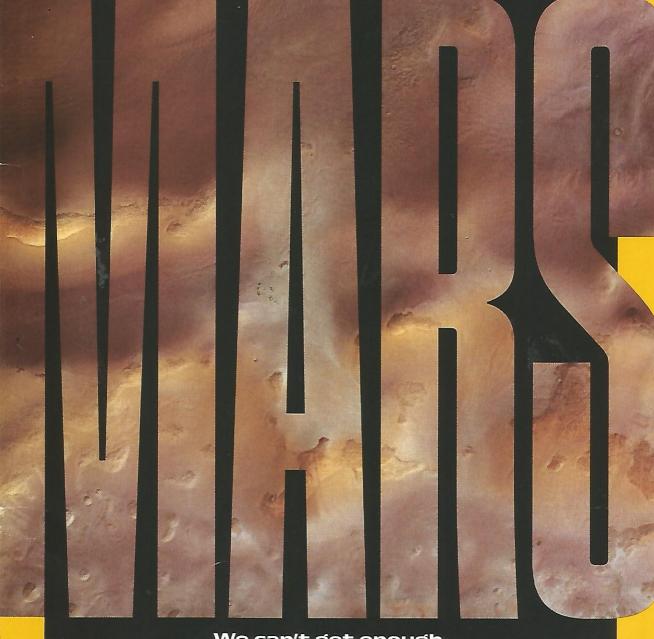
# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



We can't get enough of the red planet



## CONTENTS

#### On the Cover

We've been fascinated for millennia by Mars, seen here in images taken by (from top) the European Space Agency's Mars Express, and the Viking Orbiter 1. EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY—ESA; NASA/USGS

PROOF



6

## The 'Train Ladies' of Ukraine

A tradition as old as rail travel in Ukraine, these safety signal officers work in tiny houses at rail crossings, and help keep things on track. PHOTOGRAPHS BY SASHA MASLOV

EXPLORE

15

THE BIG IDEA

### Natural Disasters?

Maybe climate change harms should be called what they are: manmade natural disasters. BY ELIZABETH KOLBERT

DECODER

#### Life After Fire

Ecosystem engineers, black-backed woodpeckers are built for life amid partially burned trees.

BY TAYLOR MAGGIACOMO



ALSO

Ancient Amphibian Plants in Disguise Moonlit Line Walk



27

DISCOVERY

#### From Lethal Trap to Artful Treasure

Snares that once killed Uganda's wildlife now support communities. BY JANI HALL PHOTOGRAPHS BY ESTHER RUTH MBABAZI

ATLAS

#### **Setting Rivers Free**

Human influences have negatively affected the flows of most of Earth's 10 longest rivers.

BY HEATHER GABRIEL SMITH AND CHRISTINA SHINTANI

ALSO

Interpreting History