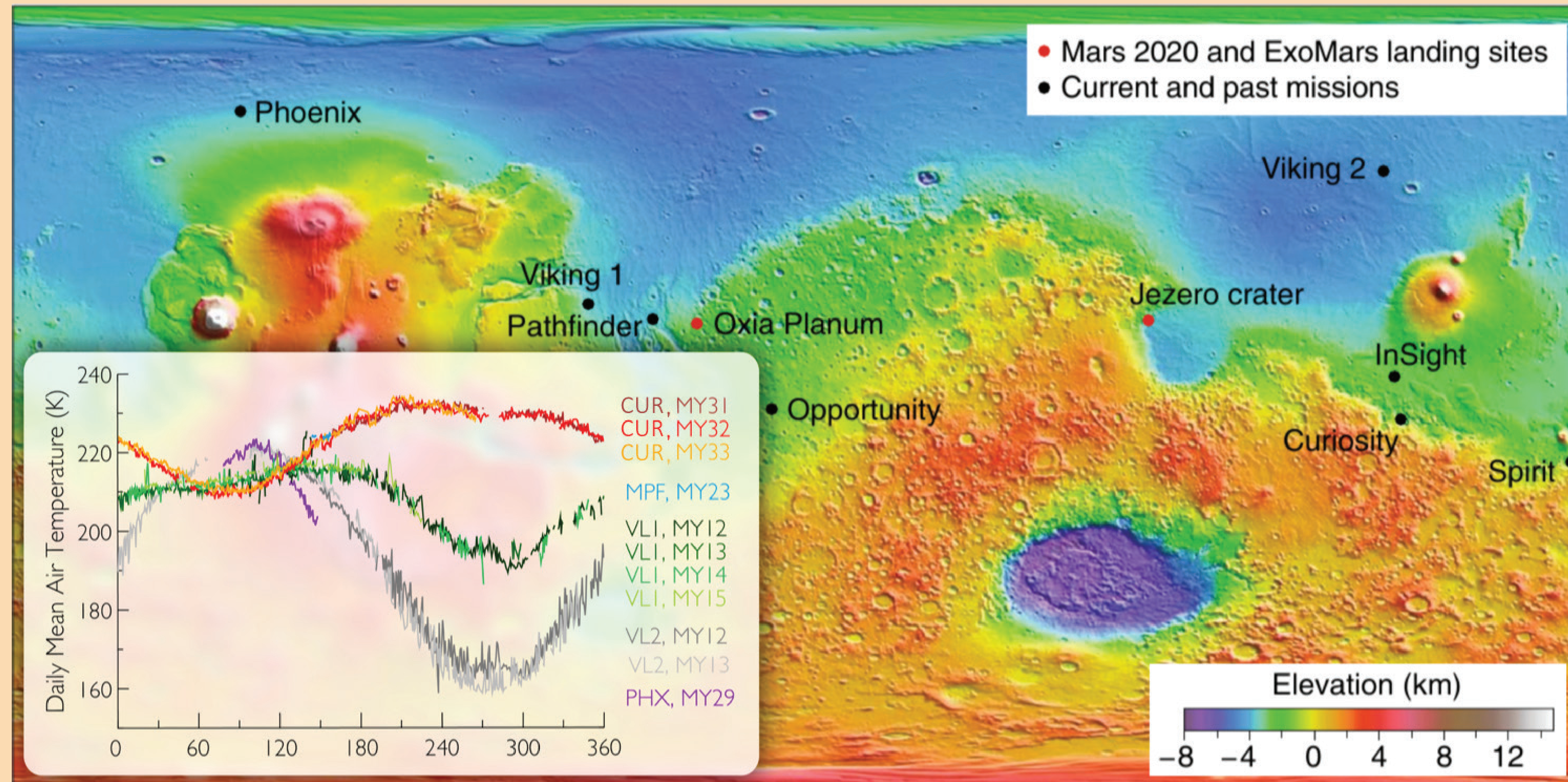


# WEATHER ON MARS



Map showing the large asymmetry in topography and the landing sites of spacecraft that landed successfully on Mars. (Inset) Interannual and seasonal evolution of the daily mean near-surface air temperature at the Viking Lander 1 (VL1; green colors), Viking Lander 2 (VL2; gray colors), Mars Pathfinder (MPF; black), Phoenix (PHX; purple) and Curiosity (CUR; brown-red-orange) landing sites.

The amount of energy at the surface of Mars controls the weather and over longer periods of time, the climate. The weather and the climate (e.g., near-surface air temperature) change with latitude and the seasons (the x axis along the graph). We need a better understanding of what drives the weather on Mars for future human missions to the Red Planet.