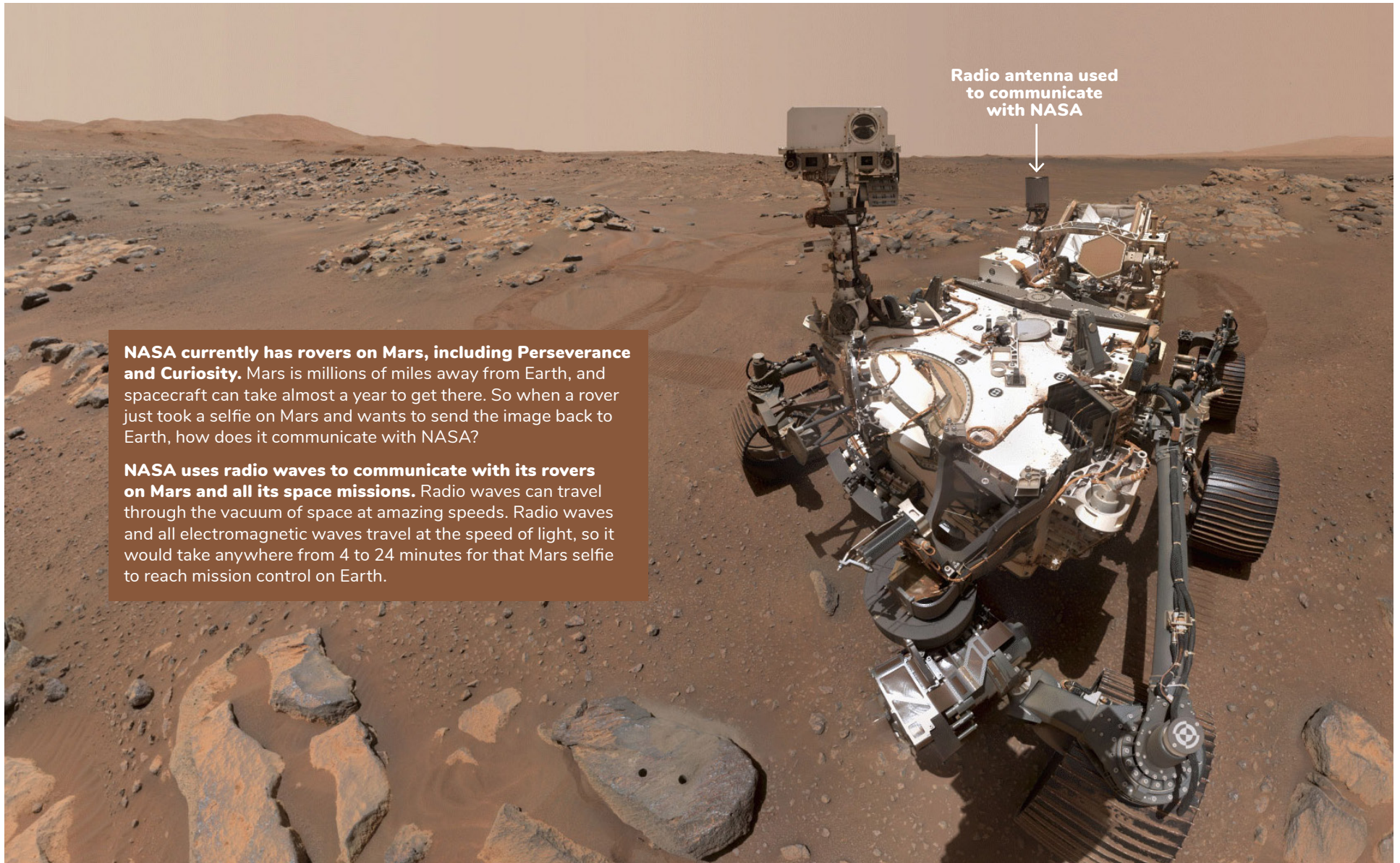


How Does NASA Communicate with Rovers on Mars?



NASA currently has rovers on Mars, including Perseverance and Curiosity. Mars is millions of miles away from Earth, and spacecraft can take almost a year to get there. So when a rover just took a selfie on Mars and wants to send the image back to Earth, how does it communicate with NASA?

NASA uses radio waves to communicate with its rovers on Mars and all its space missions. Radio waves can travel through the vacuum of space at amazing speeds. Radio waves and all electromagnetic waves travel at the speed of light, so it would take anywhere from 4 to 24 minutes for that Mars selfie to reach mission control on Earth.

