

NOTE:

Serious ufologists interested in an exchange of ideas and reports are requested to contact:
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Mars water may sustain manned missions to planet

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP) — Mars has up to 100 times more water than was previously believed, and that may help sustain manned missions to the planet, NASA researchers said.

The researchers studied 20,000 high-resolution photographs of Mars taken by the Mariner and Viking unmanned orbital flights in the 1970s. The photos suggest evidence of permafrost, polar ice, and dry rivers and lakes.

There is enough water to cover Mars by a depth of 10 to 100 meters if all the ice melted, said Robert Haberle, a meteorologist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Ames Research Center.

"When men do go to Mars, one of the important resources they will be looking for is water," said Michael Carr of the U.S. Geological Survey. The water can be used for drinking, for oxygen, to power rockets and to grow food.

The researchers released the results of a study, called "Mars: Evolution of Climate and Atmosphere."

James Pollack, an astronomer at NASA-Ames, said that although Mars is now a cold, desertlike planet, its early history may have been different.

An atmosphere of carbon dioxide created by active volcanoes may have generated a greenhouse effect, allowing the sun's rays to warm the planet.

This atmosphere may have been maintained a half billion years before the carbon dioxide was absorbed by carbonate rocks, making Mars too cold to maintain flowing water.

Softening of terrain, or a rounding-off of features indicated in the photographs, suggests ice is present in regions above 30 degrees latitude.

Since temperatures increase closer to a planet's core, the ice indicates that water exists on Mars up to half a mile beneath the surface.

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