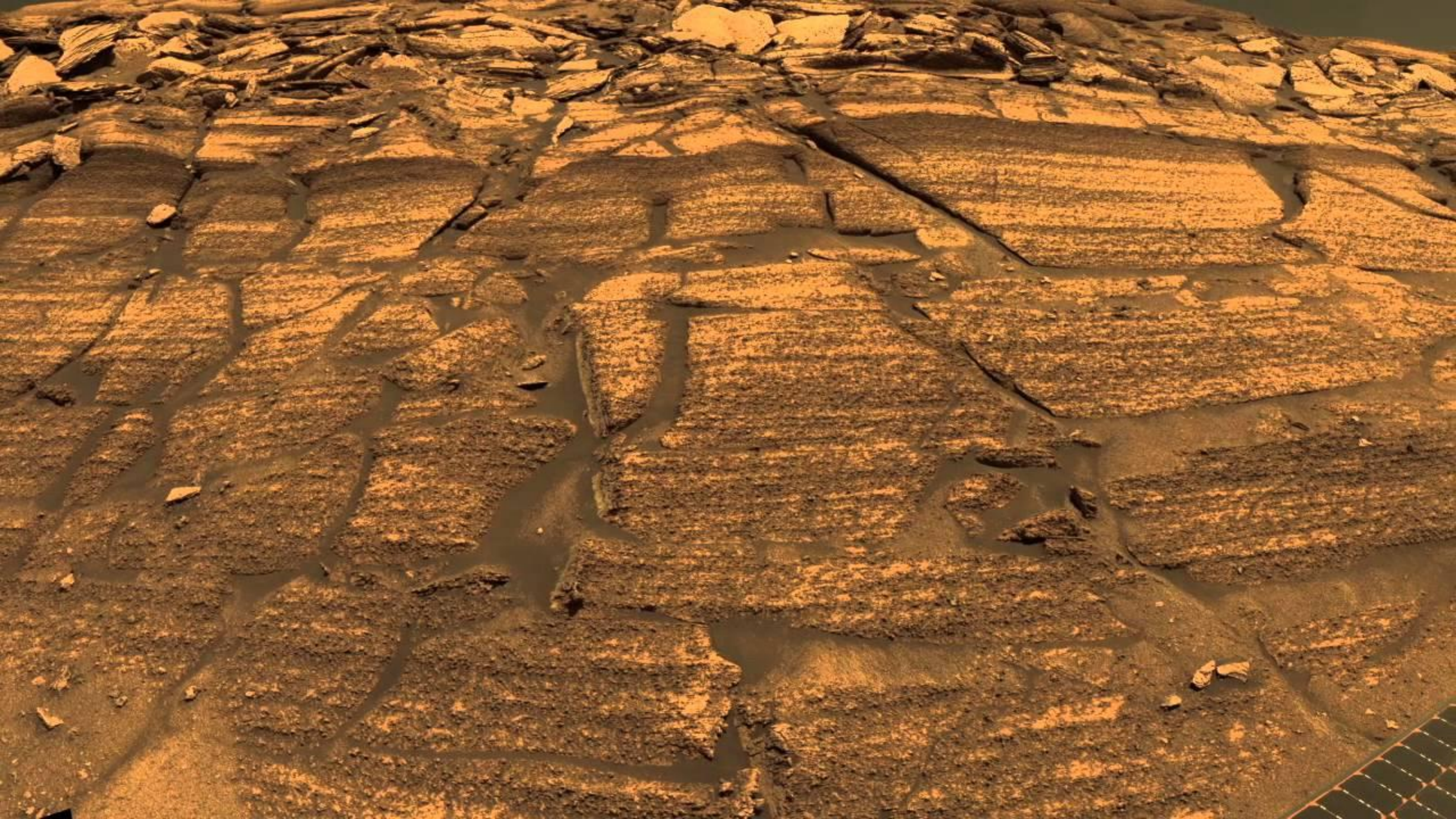

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,000
Steve Squyres: We went into this, honestly, with big ambitions.

2
00:00:03,000 --> 00:00:08,000
We went into this to try to transform our understanding of Mars.

3
00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:13,000
And, that's hard to do in 90 days, but turns out if you have 10 years you can come pretty close.

4
00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:20,000
Music.

5
00:00:20,000 --> 00:00:24,000
Squyres: It's been a decade-long string of 'Can we make it to the next crater?'

6
00:00:24,000 --> 00:00:32,000
Matt Golombek: That first 90 days in Eagle crater was basically taking all this information that had suggested

7
00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:39,000
that Mars may have been warmer and wetter earlier on, to 'there's the rocks,'

8
00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:46,000
and there's no alternative to there have been any water on the surface and near surface

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00:00:46,000 --> 00:00:50,000
at the time those rocks formed. And that's a huge moment in Mars science

10
00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:53,000
now you've got the rocks, you've got the proof. Laughs.

11
00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:54,000
Music.

12
00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:57,000
So the next step was to go to Endurance.

13
00:00:57,000 --> 00:01:02,000

We saw really a rather narrow section of rocks in Eagle,

14
00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:06,000
and now we have a bigger section of rocks in Endurance,

15
00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:11,000
and gave us a much richer story about how the evolution of this environment occurred.

16
00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:14,000
Music.

17
00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:21,000
Squyres: We got to Victoria, we spent two years exploring it, we went down into it...

18
00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:24,000
came back out...

19
00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:27,000
walked along the edge of it...

20
00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:29,000
peered over the edge of the cliff.

21
00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:36,000
Golombek: And we could see the dune forms that existed and which way they were blowing the sediment.

22
00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:45,000
And a much clearer idea of the changes that occurred within the rocks when they were buried.

23
00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:47,000
Music.

24
00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:51,000
Squyres: It took three years of driving.

25
00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:57,000
Endeavour has this rim that sticks up real high, and as soon as we pulled up to the rim of that crater,

26
00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:02,000
everything changed. It was like a new mission, a new landing site, like it started all over again.

27
00:02:02,000 --> 00:02:07,000
Golombek: We went from what had been a predominately acid-rich environment,

28
00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:12,000
and now we see minerals and materials at the surface

29
00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:17,000
that indicate everything that you perhaps needed to support life existing.

30
00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:24,000
Squyres: We have got fabulous science out ahead of us. And I know really know quite what to expect.

31
00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:31,000
But from orbit we see compelling evidence that this is a place where there are clay minerals

32
00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:35,000
in concentrations far greater than anything we've seen before.

33
00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:39,000
Golombek: If Mars was wet shouldn't there have been life there, too?

34
00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:42,000
Are we an accident of the highest order?

35
00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:46,000
Or will life form anywhere that liquid water was present?

36
00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:52,000
And to have the ability to answer questions of almost theological significance,

37
00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:54,000
'Are we alone in the Universe?'