

HOW DOES NASA NAME THINGS ON MARS?



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
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1
00:00:04,670 --> 00:00:02,090
for more than two years the perseverance

2
00:00:06,590 --> 00:00:04,680
Rover team has added over 850 names for

3
00:00:08,390 --> 00:00:06,600
Martian rocks drill targets and other

4
00:00:10,129 --> 00:00:08,400
locations and we're going to need a lot

5
00:00:16,090 --> 00:00:10,139
more but where do these names come from

6
00:00:20,810 --> 00:00:18,769
here in the operations area for the

7
00:00:23,510 --> 00:00:20,820
perseverance Rover the team is driving

8
00:00:25,670 --> 00:00:23,520
into new Martian terrain every day just

9
00:00:27,650 --> 00:00:25,680
like our other rover Curiosity I'm

10
00:00:29,210 --> 00:00:27,660
joined today with Tina Seeger who's

11
00:00:30,830 --> 00:00:29,220
going to tell us a little bit about her

12
00:00:32,810 --> 00:00:30,840
role on the Rover teams and why it's

13
00:00:35,209 --> 00:00:32,820

important well I'm a geologist who

14

00:00:37,069 --> 00:00:35,219

studies rocks on Mars so just like on

15

00:00:38,810 --> 00:00:37,079

Earth geologists on Mars rely on

16

00:00:40,790 --> 00:00:38,820

familiar names on a map to understand

17

00:00:42,709 --> 00:00:40,800

the landscape and communicate with each

18

00:00:44,990 --> 00:00:42,719

other about the rock scene by The Rovers

19

00:00:47,270 --> 00:00:45,000

curiosity and perseverance are located

20

00:00:49,190 --> 00:00:47,280

in different craters more than 2 000

21

00:00:50,930 --> 00:00:49,200

miles from each other and naming rocks

22

00:00:53,630 --> 00:00:50,940

in those craters after places on Earth

23

00:00:55,910 --> 00:00:53,640

curiosity just drilled ubahara named

24

00:00:57,770 --> 00:00:55,920

after a national park in Brazil and

25

00:01:00,350 --> 00:00:57,780

perseverance is studying Belva crater

26

00:01:02,090 --> 00:01:00,360

Belva is a town in West Virginia named

27

00:01:03,770 --> 00:01:02,100

after Belva Ann Lockwood who was one of

28

00:01:06,289 --> 00:01:03,780

the first women to run for president

29

00:01:07,910 --> 00:01:06,299

so who decides the names on Mars well

30

00:01:09,710 --> 00:01:07,920

official names get assigned by the

31

00:01:11,330 --> 00:01:09,720

international astronomical Union which

32

00:01:13,190 --> 00:01:11,340

has strict guidelines for features

33

00:01:15,230 --> 00:01:13,200

across the whole solar system

34

00:01:17,690 --> 00:01:15,240

small craters on Mars must be named

35

00:01:19,250 --> 00:01:17,700

after small towns like Belva or lake

36

00:01:21,170 --> 00:01:19,260

jezero where perseverance is located

37

00:01:22,249 --> 00:01:21,180

which means Lake in many Slavic

38

00:01:24,350 --> 00:01:22,259

languages

39

00:01:26,749 --> 00:01:24,360
smaller features like rocks Cliffs

40

00:01:28,310 --> 00:01:26,759
meteorites those get nicknames chosen by

41

00:01:29,870 --> 00:01:28,320
the Rover teams that are not official

42

00:01:31,550 --> 00:01:29,880
but they do stick

43

00:01:33,649 --> 00:01:31,560
how do you come up with the names for

44

00:01:35,690 --> 00:01:33,659
these smaller features like rocks well

45

00:01:38,030 --> 00:01:35,700
in the 90s they came up with names on

46

00:01:40,609 --> 00:01:38,040
the Fly and that's why you got silly

47

00:01:43,069 --> 00:01:40,619
names like Barnacle Bill Indiana Jones

48

00:01:44,929 --> 00:01:43,079
but now we compile lists of names ahead

49

00:01:47,330 --> 00:01:44,939
of time based on different themes we

50

00:01:49,670 --> 00:01:47,340
draw a grid on the map where each square

51
00:01:52,010 --> 00:01:49,680
is a different quadrant that represents

52
00:01:54,770 --> 00:01:52,020
a different theme Curiosity has used

53
00:01:56,929 --> 00:01:54,780
names from South America Scotland

54
00:01:59,090 --> 00:01:56,939
perseverance uses names from national

55
00:02:01,429 --> 00:01:59,100
parks around the world how were these

56
00:02:03,649 --> 00:02:01,439
names decided names can come from

57
00:02:05,389 --> 00:02:03,659
anywhere in your imagination going back

58
00:02:07,789 --> 00:02:05,399
to Pathfinder a rock looked like the

59
00:02:10,010 --> 00:02:07,799
face of Yogi Bear and got the name Yogi

60
00:02:11,210 --> 00:02:10,020
rock this meteorite is heat shield Rock

61
00:02:13,490 --> 00:02:11,220
which sits near debris from

62
00:02:15,050 --> 00:02:13,500
opportunities heat shield drilled Rock

63
00:02:17,210 --> 00:02:15,060

samples that perseverance has dropped

64

00:02:19,010 --> 00:02:17,220

for collection also have names like bear

65

00:02:21,589 --> 00:02:19,020

wallow which is named after a hiking

66

00:02:23,690 --> 00:02:21,599

trail in Shenandoah National Park one of

67

00:02:25,850 --> 00:02:23,700

my favorite curiosity targets is called

68

00:02:27,710 --> 00:02:25,860

Bonanza King which is named after the

69

00:02:30,050 --> 00:02:27,720

Bonanza King rock formation Near Death

70

00:02:32,030 --> 00:02:30,060

Valley here we see an area that

71

00:02:34,190 --> 00:02:32,040

resembles a strip of bacon when viewed

72

00:02:36,229 --> 00:02:34,200

from space so we jokingly called it the

73

00:02:37,910 --> 00:02:36,239

bacon strip since arriving at the site

74

00:02:39,949 --> 00:02:37,920

with perseverance we had to give it a

75

00:02:43,009 --> 00:02:39,959

name that fit the Shenandoah theme so we

76
00:02:44,990 --> 00:02:43,019
chose hog wallow Flats if you could come

77
00:02:47,570 --> 00:02:45,000
up with a name for a rock what would it

78
00:02:49,190 --> 00:02:47,580
be I spent seven Summers as the night

79
00:02:51,110 --> 00:02:49,200
skies Ranger at Mount Rainier National

80
00:02:52,910 --> 00:02:51,120
Park so I'd probably pick something

81
00:02:54,490 --> 00:02:52,920
named after Mount Rainier or a place

82
00:02:56,750 --> 00:02:54,500
that's special to me inside the park

83
00:02:59,150 --> 00:02:56,760
luckily I got to map the Mount Rainier

84
00:03:00,770 --> 00:02:59,160
quadrant in Jezreel crater so if we

85
00:03:03,290 --> 00:03:00,780
drive through it that dream might become

86
00:03:05,630 --> 00:03:03,300
a reality to get the latest updates on

87
00:03:08,449 --> 00:03:05,640
curiosity and perseverance follow at

88
00:03:10,910 --> 00:03:08,459

NASA JPL and at NASA Mars on social

89

00:03:14,509 --> 00:03:10,920

media or take a deeper dive at