



NASA's Curiosity Rover Discovers Intriguing Honeycomb Pattern on Mars

Description

NASA's Curiosity rover has made a fascinating discovery on Mars, revealing a mysterious honeycomb-like pattern on the planet's surface. This finding adds to the numerous geological features that continue to intrigue scientists researching Mars. The rover, which landed in 2012, photographed this unusual texture during its exploration in Gale Crater.

The formation consists of polygonal structures that resemble a giant honeycomb, leaving scientists unsure about their origin. The team was surprised to find these features and noted that they looked different when viewed from the ground compared to images taken from orbit. They discovered that the surface was littered with dark rocks ranging in size from pebbles to larger cobbles.

Researchers are exploring whether these rocks originated from higher layers of the Martian surface, were ejected from impacts, or are meteorites from beyond Mars. Despite Earth having similar patterns formed by drying mud or crystallising materials, it remains uncertain whether these structures on Mars formed through similar processes.

The layered terrain also piques interest, as scientists plan to conduct further analyses of the dark rocks, named "Cortadera." These rocks might have unique mineral content, akin to findings from earlier rover missions. As the Curiosity rover continues its mission, it will soon approach areas of darker and rougher materials.

This ongoing exploration signifies that Mars still has many secrets to unveil, with scientists eager to understand the potential connection between the honeycomb formations and the surrounding geological features.

Vocabulary List:

1. **polygonal** //pə'liɡənəl// (adjective): having many straight sides and angles
2. **geological** //dʒiə'lədʒɪkəl// (adjective): related to earth, rocks, or ground
3. **meteorites** //mi:tɪə,raɪts// (noun): rocks from space that hit the ground
4. **crystallising** //ˈkrɪstə,lɑɪzɪŋ// (verb): forming solid crystals from a liquid
5. **piques** //pi:ks// (verb): makes someone feel interested or curious
6. **analyses** //ə'næləsi:z// (noun): detailed studies to learn more information



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What did NASA's Curiosity rover discover on Mars?

- Option: A honeycomb-like pattern
- Option: Water deposits
- Option: Fossilized plants
- Option: An alien artifact

2. In which year did the Curiosity rover land on Mars?

- Option: 2010
- Option: 2011
- Option: 2012
- Option: 2013

3. Where did the rover photograph the unusual texture?

- Option: Olympus Mons
- Option: Gale Crater
- Option: Valles Marineris
- Option: Hellas Planitia

4. What size do the dark rocks found on Mars range from?

- Option: Dust to boulders
- Option: Pebbles to larger cobbles
- Option: Sand to gravel
- Option: Small stones to large slabs

5. What are the dark rocks found by the Curiosity rover named?

- Option: Gale
- Option: Cortaderra
- Option: Curiosity
- Option: Mariner

6. What geological phenomena does Earth have that is similar to the structures found on Mars?

- Option: Volcanoes



- Option: Glaciers
- Option: Drying mud or crystallising materials
- Option: Craters

True-False

7. The honeycomb-like patterns on Mars are well understood by scientists.
8. Curiosity rover has landed on Mars in 2012.
9. The dark rocks found by the rover are all the same size.
10. Scientists have already established that the honeycomb formations on Mars are similar to those on Earth.
11. Curiosity rover is the only rover to explore Gale Crater.
12. NASA is planning to conduct further analyses on the dark rocks discovered.

Gap-Fill

13. NASA's Curiosity rover has revealed a mysterious honeycomb-like pattern on the planet's surface, discovered in _____.
14. The formation consists of polygonal structures that resemble a giant _____.
15. The rocks that were found by the rover are named _____ and may have unique mineral content.
16. The rover photographed the unusual texture during its exploration in _____ year.
17. Researchers are investigating whether these dark rocks originated from higher layers of the Martian surface or are _____ from beyond Mars.



18. Despite having similar patterns on Earth formed by drying mud or crystallising materials, it remains _____ whether these structures on Mars formed through similar processes.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. A honeycomb-like pattern 2. 2012 3. Gale Crater 4. Pebbles to larger cobbles 5. Cortadera 6. Drying mud or crystallising materials

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. Gale Crater 14. honeycomb 15. Cortadera 16. 2012 17. meteorites 18. uncertain

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

POST TAG

1. B2
2. Curiosity Rover
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. honeycomb pattern
6. Level 4
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