
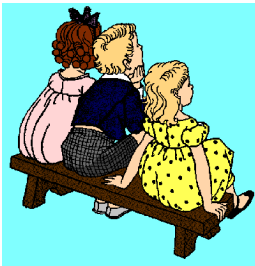


Is There Life on Mars?

Introduction

 NASA has made a startling discovery that points to the possibility that a primitive form of microscopic life may have existed on Mars more than 300 billion year ago. The research is based on a sophisticated examination of an ancient Martian meteorite (ALH84001) that landed on Earth some 13,000 years ago. The evidence is exciting, even compelling but not conclusive.

August 6, 1996
Statement from Daniel S. Goldin, NASA Administrator



Task

Is there life on Mars? Was there ever life on Mars? These are questions that may ultimately only be answered by a manned journey to Mars. Your assignment as a *Scientific* magazine reporter is to write a research article that addresses these questions:

“Is there evidence of life on Mars now?”

“Is there evidence that life ever existed on Mars?”

Procedure

1. Your article should address the following questions: Is there life on Mars? Where was ALH84001 discovered and by whom? How do we know the meteorite came from Mars? What evidence do we have that this was once a living organism? Are there people who disagree with these findings? What evidence do they have? How do you think these questions will be resolved?

2. Guidelines for Submitting Articles

- The article you submit to *Scientific* magazine must be 2-3 pages in length and must include graphics.
- Tables, graphs charts, and photos should be appropriately labeled.
- Remember! Good reporting is clear, concise, and correlated.
- Be sure your readers have information that can answer all the following guideline questions:
Who? What? Why? Where?
When? How much? How often?
- Remember to cite all of your sources. The following web site has bibliography information.

<http://www.nrlssc.navy.mil/meta/bibliography.html>

Information Sources

The following web sites may provide helpful information as you research your article.

<http://www.marsacademy.com/meteor1.htm>

<http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/pao/flash/marslife/>

<http://humbabe.arc.nasa.gov/mgcm/faq/life.html>

Learning Advice

The purpose of your article is to inform the reader about facts concerning possible life on Mars. Be sure to include evidence that supports the life on Mars theories as well as information that attempts to prove life does not exist there. Remember, “extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence” to prove them. Take care in documenting your research. *Scientific* magazine is not a tabloid!