

The Geology Of Mars

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research into the geological processes operating on mars relies on interpretation of

images and other data returned by unmanned orbiters probes and landers such interpretations are based on our knowledge of processes occurring on earth terrestrial analog studies therefore play an important role in understanding the geological features observed on mars this 2007 book presents direct comparisons between locales on earth and mars and contains contributions from leading planetary geologists to demonstrate the parallels and differences between these two neighboring planets mars is characterized by a wide range of geological phenomena that also occur on earth including tectonic volcanic impact cratering eolian fluvial glacial and possibly lacustrine and marine processes the book provides terrestrial analogs for data sets from mars global surveyor mars odyssey mars exploration rovers and mars express and will therefore be a key reference for students and researchers of planetary science

mars geological enigmas from the late noachian epoch to the present day presents outstanding questions on the geology of mars and divergent viewpoints based on varying interpretations and analyses the result is a robust and comprehensive discussion that provides opportunities for planetary scientists to develop their own opinions and ways forward each theme opens with an introduction that includes background on the topic and lays out questions to be addressed alternate perspectives are covered for each topic including methods observations analyses and in depth discussion of the conclusions chapters within each theme reference each other to facilitate comparison and deeper understanding of divergent opinions offers a transchronological view of the geological history of mars addressing thematic questions from a broad temporal perspective discusses outstanding questions on mars from diverging perspectives includes key questions and answers as well as a look ahead to which puzzles remain to be solved

the latest mars missions are returning data of unprecedented fidelity in their representation of the martian surface new data include images with spatial resolution better than 30 cm per pixel stereo imaging derived terrain models with one meter postings high resolution imaging spectroscopy and radar data that reveal subsurface structure this book reveals how this information is being used to understand the evolution of martian landscapes and includes topics such as fluvial flooding permafrost

and periglacial landforms debris flows deposition and erosion of sedimentary material and the origin of lineaments on phobos the larger martian moon contemporary remote sensing data of mars on a par with those of earth reveal landscapes strikingly similar to regions of our own planet so this book will be of interest to earth scientists and planetary scientists alike an overview chapter summarising mars climate geology and exploration is included for the benefit of those new to mars

the description for this book the geology of mars will be forthcoming

mars has been extensively photographed by cameras and compositionally detected by spectrometers onboard orbiters on a global scale and explored in situ by landers and rovers at both local and outcrop scales in different locations the results have proved that the martian surface is rich in earth like geomorphologies and the study of terrestrial analogs to mars has been listed as one of the highest priorities of martian science with increasing new discoveries by in situ explorations mars exploration has begun to enter the era of focusing on detailed analyses at regional to outcrop levels rather than global mapping analog studies are playing a crucial role in this transition making this book which introduces the methodology and provides cases for readers essentially important dozens of sites on earth have been listed as analog targets for comparative study with the geomorphology geology geochemistry environment and habitability of mars however due to the diversity of landforms and forming mechanisms and the long history of mars no single analog site on earth can be fully compared to mars nonetheless the qaidam basin has been listed as an unique mars analog site for studying the red planet s geomorphology geology and environmental changes particularly regarding the evolution of paleolakes on mars this kind of setting has always been listed as a top priority for the search of life on mars this book contains first hand information and on site images obtained by the work s contributing authors and is an essential read for anyone interested in martian geomorphology and its evolution processes and history

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mariner 9 results indicate that mars is geologically far more heterogeneous than
previously suspected from earlier flyby missions the surface has been shaped by
volcanic tectonic erosional and depositional activity the equatorial region between 30 n
and 30 s latitude is depicted in four geologic sketch maps and seventeen geologic units
are defined on the basis of their textural characteristics the maps and the brief
descriptions of geological units portrayed are followed by a series of more interpretive
discussions dealing with topical problems and a summary geologic history topics
covered include cratering circular basins volcanism canyons chaotic terrain channels
and eolian activity

this text focuses on the environmental evolution of mars particular emphasis is given to
the understanding of mars as a cold planet throughout its entire geological evolution
starting as a wet world where liquid water was abundant on the surface albeit the low
temperatures and its sequential transition into a dry planet as temperatures turned even
colder

often thought of as a volcanically dominated planet the last several decades of mars
exploration have revealed with increasing clarity the role of sedimentary processes on
the red planet data from recent orbiters have highlighted the role of sedimentary
processes throughout the geologic evolution of mars by providing evidence that such
processes are preserved in a rock record that spans a period of over four billion years

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