

WAS THERE WATER ON MARS? | BEWARE OF ERIONITE

EARTH

Tracking Plastic in the Oceans



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 **AGI**
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FEATURE

TRACKING PLASTIC IN THE OCEANS

No one knows how much plastic is floating in the oceans, how long it lasts, how it affects marine life or exactly how it travels the world. Recently, researchers have sought to answer these questions — and their results show there is reason for concern.

Barry E. DiGregorio



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FEATURE

DANGEROUS DUST: Erionite — an asbestos-like mineral causing a cancer epidemic in Turkey — is found in at least 13 U.S. states

Researchers have recently become aware of the dangers of erionite, a mineral found across the western U.S. as well as on every continent. Erionite-bearing gravel was used on roads for decades in North Dakota, where public health officials now watch for signs of mesothelioma.

Sara E. Pratt



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FEATURE

TRAVELS IN GEOLOGY: Hiking Mount Nyiragongo in Virunga National Park, Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo is not widely known for its geological wonders or natural beauty — but it should be. Climb Nyiragongo in one day, sleep by the glow of the lava lake that night, and greet mountain gorillas the next day.

Kathrina Szymborski



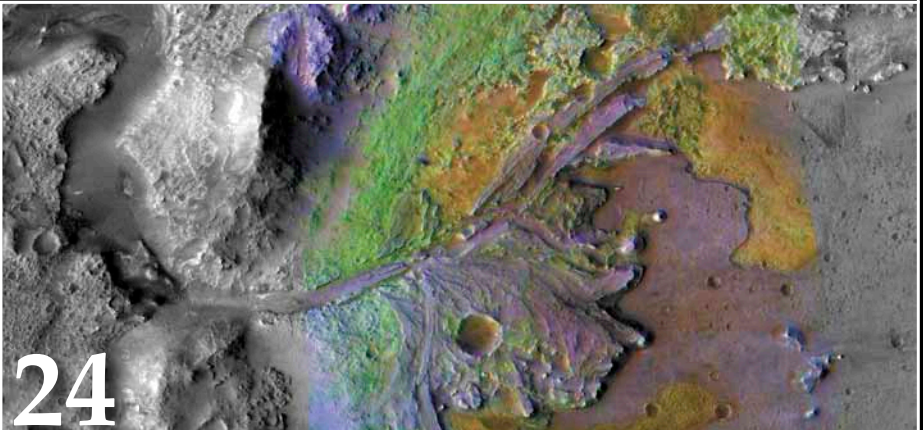
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TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS

REVISITING WATER ON MARS: The evolving hunt for life's key ingredient on the Red Planet

For decades, scientists have been wondering if Mars could support life — or at least some of the building blocks of life, including water. What is the latest research showing?

Kathryn Hansen



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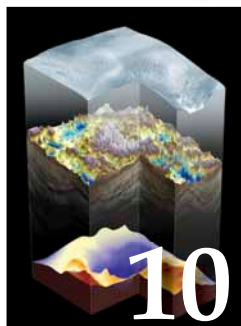
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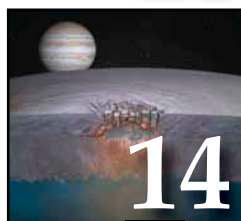
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SCIENCE AND RELIGION DO MIX — *SOMETIMES*
Many people see science and religion as irreconcilable. But do scientists all think that? The results of a recent study might surprise you.
Elaine Howard Ecklund
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LESSONS FROM THE FINAL FRONTIER
The original “Star Trek” has been a teaching tool for a generation — for example, “Never beam down wearing a red shirt.” The series offers lessons for earth scientists still today.
Lisa A. Rossbacher

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