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Description

The Mars Rover has detected the first on-the-ground evidence of an ancient streambed. If there was water, researchers wonder if Mars could have once supported life.

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**APA**


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**Transcript**

Water on Mars NASA Finds Evidence of Once Flowing River

TOM COSTELLO reporting:

For the scientists studying the images beamed back from the Mars rover, this was their eureka moment, clear evidence they say in the rocks that a deep fast-moving stream or river once flowed right here possibly for thousands of years.

Mr. JOHN GROTZINGER (Project Scientist/Cal Tech): This is a rock that was formed in the presence of water. And to us it just looked like somebody came along the surface of Mars with a jackhammer and lifted up a sidewalk.

COSTELLO: The sediment itself tells the tale, rounded pieces of gravel about the size of an M&M. Ms. REBECCA WILLIAMS (Senior Scientist/Planetary Science Institute): These are too large to be transported by wind. The consensus of the science team is that these are water transported gravels in a vigorous stream.

COSTELLO: What makes this discovery so exciting is that this is exactly the reason NASA chose this landing site near the equator to determine whether water ever flowed on this dry dusty planet. And if so, did life ever exist on Mars. So now they’ll command the Rover to run chemical and mineralogical experiments.

Mr. GROTZINGER: To ask if this is kind the place that-- that microorganisms could have lived. So certainly flowing water is a place where that could happen.

COSTELLO: Many scientists believe Mars was once a warm wet place. But that’s not all that’s required for a life to have existed. We may find the deeper Curiosity digs, the deeper the questions.