

Is there Life on Mars?

In the enthralling and inventive e-story named *Jazz Harper*, Jazz - who happens to be the main character - ventures to the planet Mars to spend several months living in one of the planet's colonies. This is exactly what scientists are attempting to do in real life - to set up a colony on the planet Mars so that humans may learn more about its secrets. Yet, one intriguing question still remains: could life already possibly exist there? In this balanced argument, we will examine some reasons For and Against as to whether there could be life on the red planet.

Firstly, a large amount of people are convinced that life could possibly exist on Mars because traces of water (not liquid) have been found by probes that have visited the surface. Indeed, many experts have argued that where there is water, life must exist in some form or another, even if it is only very basic single-cell organisms (a little like bacteria and viruses.) Furthermore, other people argue that there definitely must be life on Mars because satellites have taken images of what appear to be statues, tombs and even the straight lines of what seem to be canal systems. Certainly, today's satellites use exceptionally advanced technology to produce crystal-clear images so surely there cannot be any arguing over what the images show, can there? Finally, a great many people believe that the planet Mars might support life because they simply cannot accept that our home, Earth, is the only habitable planet in the universe, and that if there is a possibility of life existing elsewhere, it would do so on Earth's closest celestial neighbor: Mars!

On the other hand, a significant amount of people say that life undoubtedly does not exist on Mars and this is because we have never found any concrete evidence of living organisms whatsoever. Yes, water has been detected in one form or another, yet aside from this, probes, satellites and telescopes have never discovered so much as one living creature making use of that water or even the fossilized remains of organisms which once existed. What's more, these people argue that if in any way life did exist (as some people suggest), why has it not attempted to make contact with Earth after all this time? There are many, many diverse ways of communication yet we have never received a single signal and surely intelligent life would want to find out if it is alone in the universe, wouldn't it? Lastly, there are a great many scientists who remind the world that Mars does not lie in the so-called 'Goldilocks Zone' of space as Earth does and therefore it does not possess the conditions to support life. Indeed, because its atmosphere is composed primarily of carbon dioxide with only a tiny amount of oxygen (whereas Earth has much higher amounts of oxygen), chances of life existing would be very slim indeed. We cannot argue with these reasons, can we?

After considering both arguments, we believe that life probably does not exist on Mars. Yes, it is tempting to believe that where water exists, life surely must exist also, however, no proof has ever been found and conditions make it pretty much impossible for life to flourish.