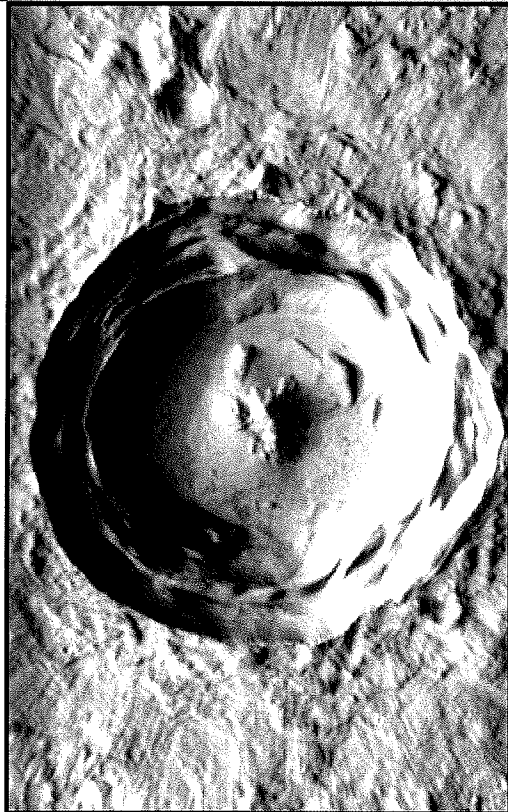


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SPACE

The Moon and Mars



Because Earth's restless geology has largely erased the evidence of our earliest days, science looks to the Moon to study the events that occur the terrestrial planets formed. Among these planets, Mars offers us the opportunity to study a neighbor world, about halfway in size between the Moon and Earth itself.

SESE researchers, led by Phil Christensen, Ron Greeley, and Mark Robinson, are exploring the Moon and Mars as principal investigators and co-investigators on numerous spacecraft missions. These include Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Odyssey, Mars Express, both Mars Exploration Rovers (Spirit and Opportunity), and Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter.

Topics under investigation include composition and evolution of magma and other rocks on the Moon and Mars, eolian deposition and erosion, Martian atmospheric circulation models, and geomorphic studies. The approach incorporates results from spacecraft data analyses, construction of new remote-sensing instruments, laboratory simulations of various planetary processes, and field studies of features on Earth analogous to extraterrestrial features.

For more information, see:

- [Planetary Geology Group](#)
- [Planetary Exploration Laboratory](#)
- [THEMIS \(Thermal Emission Imaging System\)](#)

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