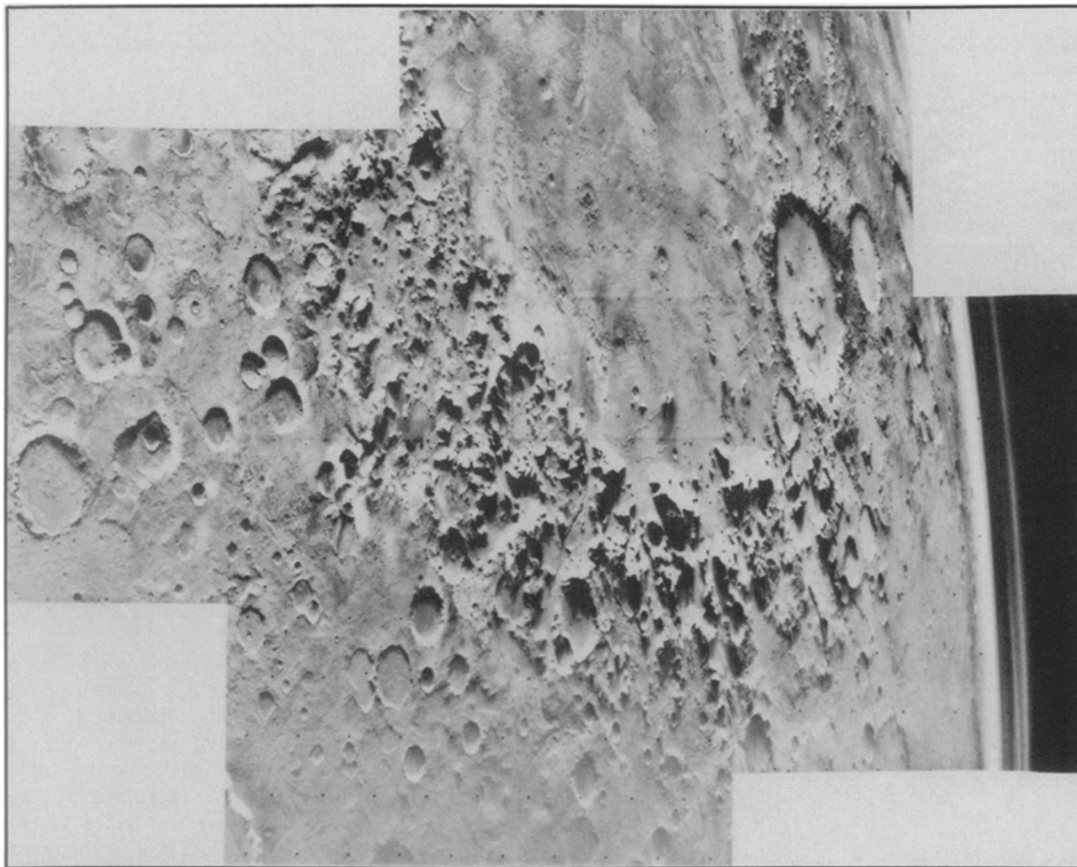


Mars Album 1

With the Viking 1 lander operating on the Martian surface, its parent craft continues to orbit the planet. Some of its views are spectacular.



Photos: NASA/Viking 1 orbiter

Oblique view of Mars across Argyre Planitia, the smooth plain at top center, toward horizon 19,000 kilometers away. On this day, the Martian atmosphere was unusually clear, but a thin haze brightens the horizon. Above horizon are detached layers of haze 25 to 40 kilometers high, probably CO₂.



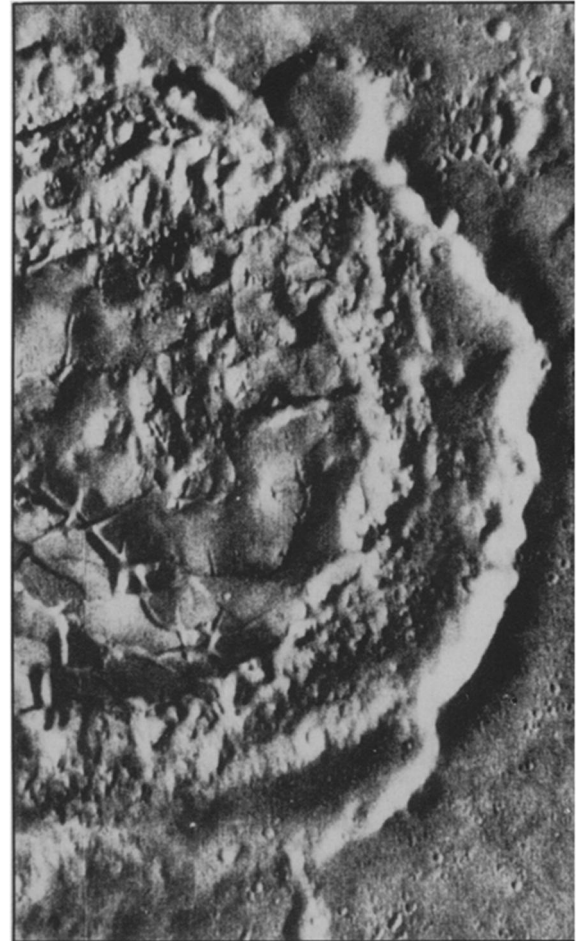
Extensively collapsed terrain has formed a wide Martian valley with series of hummocks at right end. One suggestion is that this probable down-faulting of the Martian crust is due to subsidence caused by melting of subsurface ice. The picture was taken from a range of 2,300 kilometers. The area, in the Capri region of Mars, is just south of the Martian equator.



Fault-zones break crust at this site just south of Martian equator. The fault valleys are widened by mass wasting and collapse. Mass wasting is the downslope movement of rocks due to gravity and possibly hastened by seismic shaking (marsquake).



Erosion of lava flows has left mesa buttes similar to those in Monument Valley (on border between Utah and Arizona). Streamlined islands at top may have been formed by flowing water. Mare ridges—breaks in the crust—criss-cross the plain. Composite pictures taken at a range of 1,600 kilometers.



Fine detail in interior of 25-mile-wide Martian crater reveals numerous cracks. Cracks could have been formed by consolidation of lava that filled crater after its creation, by fallback from the impact, or by uplift from the crater floor long afterward. Between cracked terrain and crater rim is a region of chaotic debris.