

## Mars for Earthlings

### LESSON 17: Vast Deserts

#### *In-Class Activity 2*

Vast Deserts\_MFE

*Martian Ventifacts*

**Purpose:** Explore the existence and formation processes of ventifacts.

#### **Resources:**

1. Mojave Desert Ventifact Video:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00qOm3KgGMw&feature=endscreen>
2. Mars ventifact images: <http://www.psi.edu/pgwg/images/jul09image.html>

**Ventifacts:** For an explanation on ventifacts use the following link (<http://www.psi.edu/pgwg/images/jul09image.html>)

#### **Death Valley**

Observe the Death Valley photo below and answer the following questions:



**Figure 1:** Death Valley Photo, credit: Marjorie Chan

1. What formation seems odd to you? Have you seen anything like it? Why is there only one?
2. Hypothesize how this might have formed.

#### **Understanding Ventifact Formation**

View the following video and answer the following questions.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00qOm3KgGMw&feature=endscreen>

1. What do you look for in order to determine if a rock or feature is a ventifact?



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2. How can you discern which direction the wind was/is blowing?
3. What causes the reddish-orange coloration?

### Martian Ventifacts?

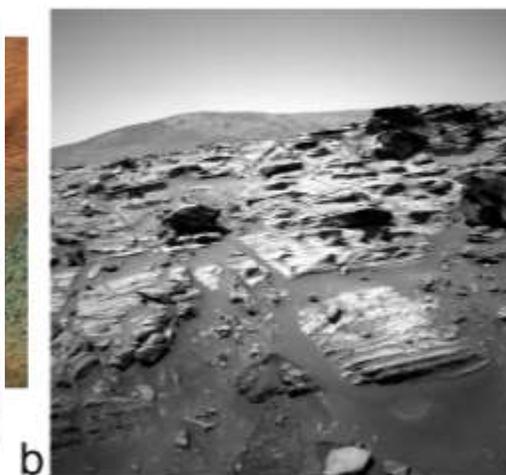
Here is what might be considered ventifacts on Mars:

Image Source:

<http://www.psi.edu/sites/default/files/imported/pgwg/images/VentFig4.jpg>



a



b



c



d

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e



f



g



1. Label the wind direction on each image above with a colored pencil or colored pen.



