BBC LEARNING ENGLISH
Media English 媒体英语
Was there life on Mars?
火星上曾有生命存在吗？

（本节目所用的音频资源于 **2022** 年 **5** 月发表。）

美国国家航空航天局（**NASA**）的"毅力号"（**Perseverance**）漫游探测器在火星的任务迎来了一个重要时刻。

This is the sound of Nasa's Perseverance **rover** hard at work on the surface of the Red Planet. It landed on Mars 15 months ago. Since then, it's been on the move, **trundling** more than seven miles across the dry and **dusty** terrain.

这是美国国家航空航天局的"毅力号"漫游探测器在火星表面努力工作时的声音。它在 15 个月前登陆火星。自那以后，它争分夺秒地进行探测任务，已经在干燥多尘的地表上行驶了七英里多。

Now it's reached its target: a delta where a river once flowed into a huge lake billions of years ago. Scientists think the **sediments** there could contain signs of ancient life, possibly **microbes** that once lived in the **Martian** waters.

现在它到达了目的地：一个三角洲，数十亿年前一条河流曾在这里流入一个大湖。科学家认为，那里的沉积物可能含有古代生命的迹象，有可能是曾经生活在火星水域的微生物。

The rover will climb up the front of the delta and search for the most promising rocks, **drilling** into them to collect samples. And some of these could be heading back to Earth – a future mission is currently being planned to retrieve them.

探测器将爬上三角洲的前端，寻找可能与微生物有过接触或被微生物改变的岩石，在它们上面钻孔收集样本。"毅力号"采集的一些样本可能会被送到地球，目前正在计划一个未来的任务将样本一一取回。

1. 词汇表

rover	探测器
trundling	慢慢地移动
dusty	多尘的
sediments	沉积物
microbes	微生物
Martian	火星的
drilling	钻孔，打眼

2. 阅读理解：请在读完上文后，回答下列问题。（答案见下页）

1. According to the article, how long ago did the rover land on Mars?

2. What nickname for Mars is used in the text?

3. How far has the rover travelled since it arrived?

4. What is the rover's target destination?

3. 答案

1. According to the article, how long ago did the rover land on Mars?

The rover arrived 15 months ago.

2. What nickname for Mars is used in the text?

Mars is referred to as the Red Planet.

3. How far has the rover travelled since it arrived?

The rover has travelled seven miles.

4. What is the rover's target destination?

The rover is heading to a delta where a river once flowed into a huge lake billions of years ago.