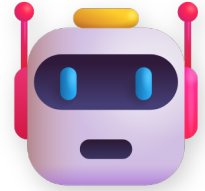




Read the story carefully. Then answer each question below in a full sentence using evidence from the text.

Perseverance Explores Mars



After a long journey through space, the Perseverance rover prepared for its incredible landing on Mars. On February 18, 2021, the world watched with bated breath as the robotic explorer began its descent. This part of the mission was famously called 'seven minutes of terror' because it was so difficult and dangerous. The rover had to slow down from thousands of miles per hour to a gentle touchdown using a parachute and a special 'sky crane' system. Its destination was Jezero Crater, a place scientists believed once held a lake.

As dust settled around it, Perseverance sent its first images back to Earth. The landscape was a stunning, dusty red, stretching out under a pale pink sky. Scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory cheered loudly. One engineer whispered, 'We made it. Now the real work begins.' Perseverance's main job was to search for signs of ancient microbial life and collect rock and soil samples. It also carried a small helicopter named Ingenuity, which would attempt the first powered flight on another planet. Every day, the rover's cameras and scientific instruments scanned the alien terrain, listening for clues in the silent, vast Martian environment.

The data Perseverance collected would help us understand if life ever existed beyond Earth and prepare for future human missions to Mars. Each rock sample carefully drilled and stored was a piece of a puzzle, waiting to be brought back home someday. This mission was a giant leap in humanity's quest to explore and understand our universe, proving that even small robots can carry big dreams.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) When did the Perseverance rover land on Mars?

(2) What does the phrase "seven minutes of terror" refer to in the story?

(3) What is the main purpose of the Perseverance mission on Mars?

(4) Why was Jezero Crater an important place for the Perseverance rover to land?



(5) Which sentence from the story tells you what Perseverance's main job was?

(6) Why do you think missions like Perseverance are important for humanity?

