NOVA Video Questions: *Is There Life on Mars?*

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

1. Why is the Phoenix Lander only good for a three month mission? (8:30)

2. What are the three basic things that life needs to take hold? (10:00)

3. Why is the finding of bedrock by rovers Spirit and Opportunity so important? (13:00)

4. How do "blueberry" rock formations form? (14:00).

5. What does the finding of sulfate (SO_4^{2-}) salts tell us existed at one time on the surface of Mars? (17:00)

6. Why does the dragging wheel on rover Spirit turn out to be a benefit to scientists? (20:00)

7. Why does the finding of water not necessarily indicate that life existed on Mars? (22:00)

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8. An increase in salt content in present rocks indicates what about the past of Mars? (24:00)

9. How could the absence of a molten core and global magnetic field explain the reason that the water on Mars evaporated? (26:00)

10. Numerous small magnetic fields have been found on Mars. What does this tell us about Mars' original magnetic field? (30:00).

11. How could the presence of extreme life forms on Earth still give hope that life might still exist on Mars? (34:00)

12. How can the Phoenix Lander detect whether the ice water it found in the polar region of Mars has ever existed as liquid water? (42:00)

13. Why is the Martian environment more prone to extreme temperature fluctuations in its past? (44:00)

14. What does the pH and salt content of Martian soil tell us about the possibility of life? (46:00)

15. How could the presence of perchlorate in Martian soil detract from the hope that life could exist in Martian soil? (48:00)

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