

MARTIAN ICE CAP -- A new type of formation never before observed on Mars is seen in this photomosaic of the Viking mission's first high-resolution pictures of the north polar ice cap. Taken by the Viking-2 orbiter, they show a spectacular array of features believed caused by the uneven distribution of ice and the exposure of defrosted layered material on slopes. Project scientists suggest the translucent streaks may have been formed by redistribution of ice and soil particles by wind. The north pole is just beyond the left edge of the mosaic.

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