Perseverance has a pet rock
8 June 2022, by Eleni Ravanis

Perseverance's pet rock has seen a lot on its travels. Back on sol 341, we were still in our Crater Floor Campaign, where we examined rocks that are part of the Máaz formation, which we believe is made up of lava flows. If this pet rock could talk, it might tell us about the changes its noticed as we traveled back north through the Octavia E. Butler landing site, and then west, passing the spectacular remains of the former extent of the delta, Kodiak, on our journey to the western Jezero delta. We're now in the Delta Front Campaign, and we just abraded what might be our first sedimentary rock. Perseverance's pet rock is now a long way from home.

Where might this pet rock end its journey? It's possible that the rock may fall out at some point along our future ascent of the crater rim. If it does so, it will land amongst rocks that we expect to be very different from itself. As one of our team members quipped this week, "We might confuse a future Mars geologist who finds it out of place!"

So if you're a Martian geologist from the future reading this, maybe a Martian graduate student tasked with mapping the historical site of Jezero crater: take heed. If you've found a rock that looks out of place, you might just be looking at the former pet rock of Perseverance.

Provided by NASA