



# Trading Cards

*"For an endeavor to be truly successful, we must enjoy the journey as well as the destination."*

**Name:** David J. Des Marais

**Title:** Research Scientist

**What I do:** I study microorganisms and old rocks to learn about ancient life on Earth and to plan the best strategy for finding evidence of water and life on other planets.

**Education:** M.S. in Geology  
Ph.D. in Geochemistry  
Graduate research on carbon, nitrogen and hydrogen in lunar samples. Postgraduate work at UCLA studying biogeochemistry of marine sediments.

**Experience:** studied carbon chemistry of lunar samples, meteorites, ancient rock and microbial ecosystems at Ames; currently involved with Mars rover and orbiter missions

**Skills:** biogeochemical analysis of microorganisms and geologic materials, coordinating research projects, planning research programs and flight missions

**Interests:** photography, outdoor activities

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