

Earth Image Placemat #1

This image shows a view of a volcano on Earth, as viewed looking down from the International Space Station (orbiting the Earth). The sunlight is shining from the lower right-hand side of the image.

A volcano is a mountain or hill formed by the accumulation (build up) of molten rock, known as magma, from the interior of a planet or moon.

On Earth, magma is typically produced at depths of 50 to 60 miles below the surface. Since liquid magma is less dense than solid rock, it is pushed out of (erupted through) cracks in the Earth's surface.

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Volcano, Mount Vesuvius, Italy

Image Credit: ISS018-E-11629 courtesy of NASA

<http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/scripts/sseop/photo.pl?mission=ISS018&roll=E&frame=11629>

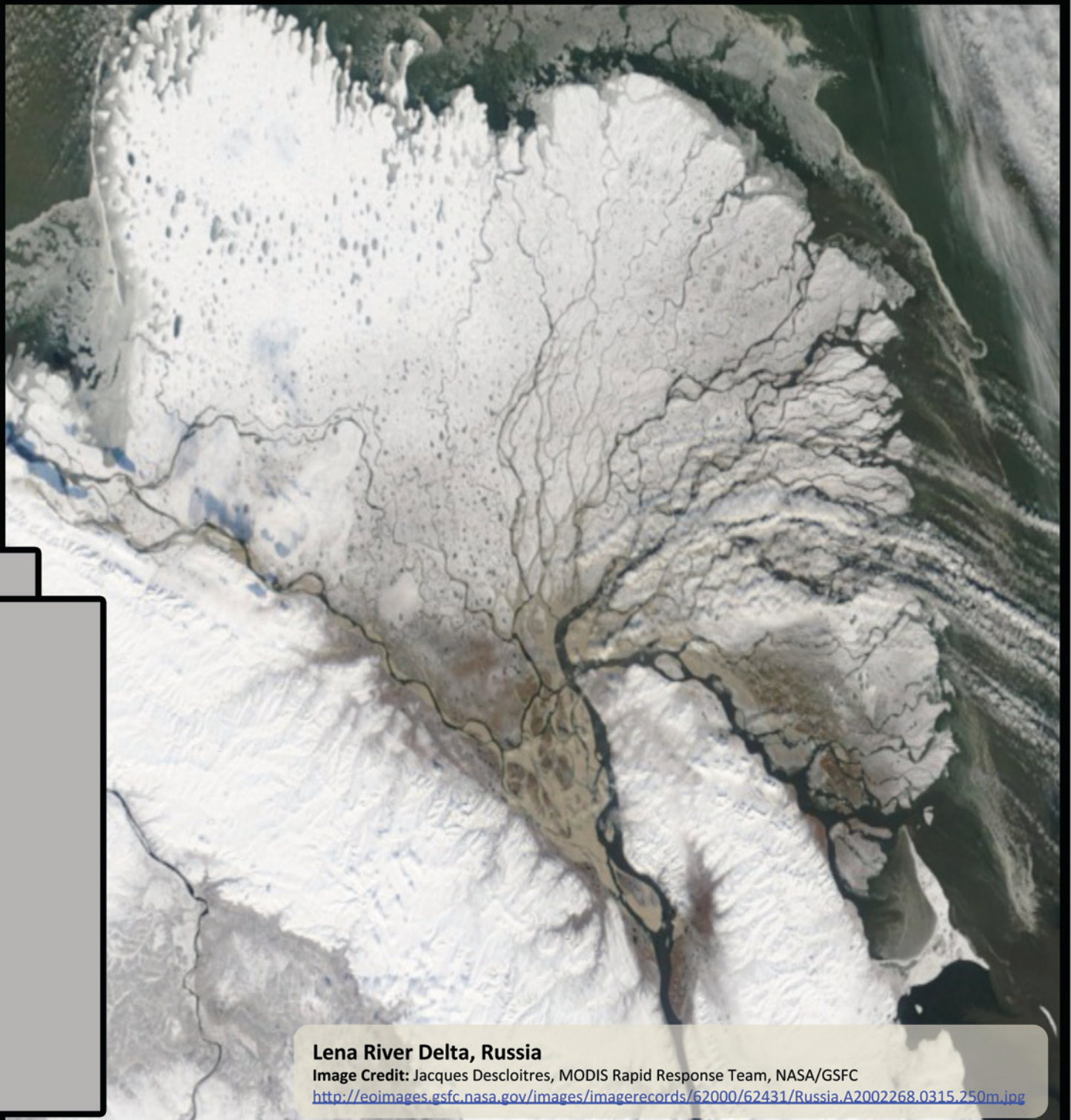


Earth Image Placemat #2

This image shows a view of a river delta on Earth, as viewed looking down from the International Space Station (orbiting the Earth).

The river and stream channels making up the delta are clearly visible in the snowy landscape and are formed by water flowing downhill over the land, eroding (sweeping away) the dirt and rock beneath. As the river empties into a larger body of water (like an ocean or large lake), the dirt and rock (sediment) is deposited - creating a triangular deposit. This deposit causes the larger stream channel to break into many smaller ribbon-like channels.

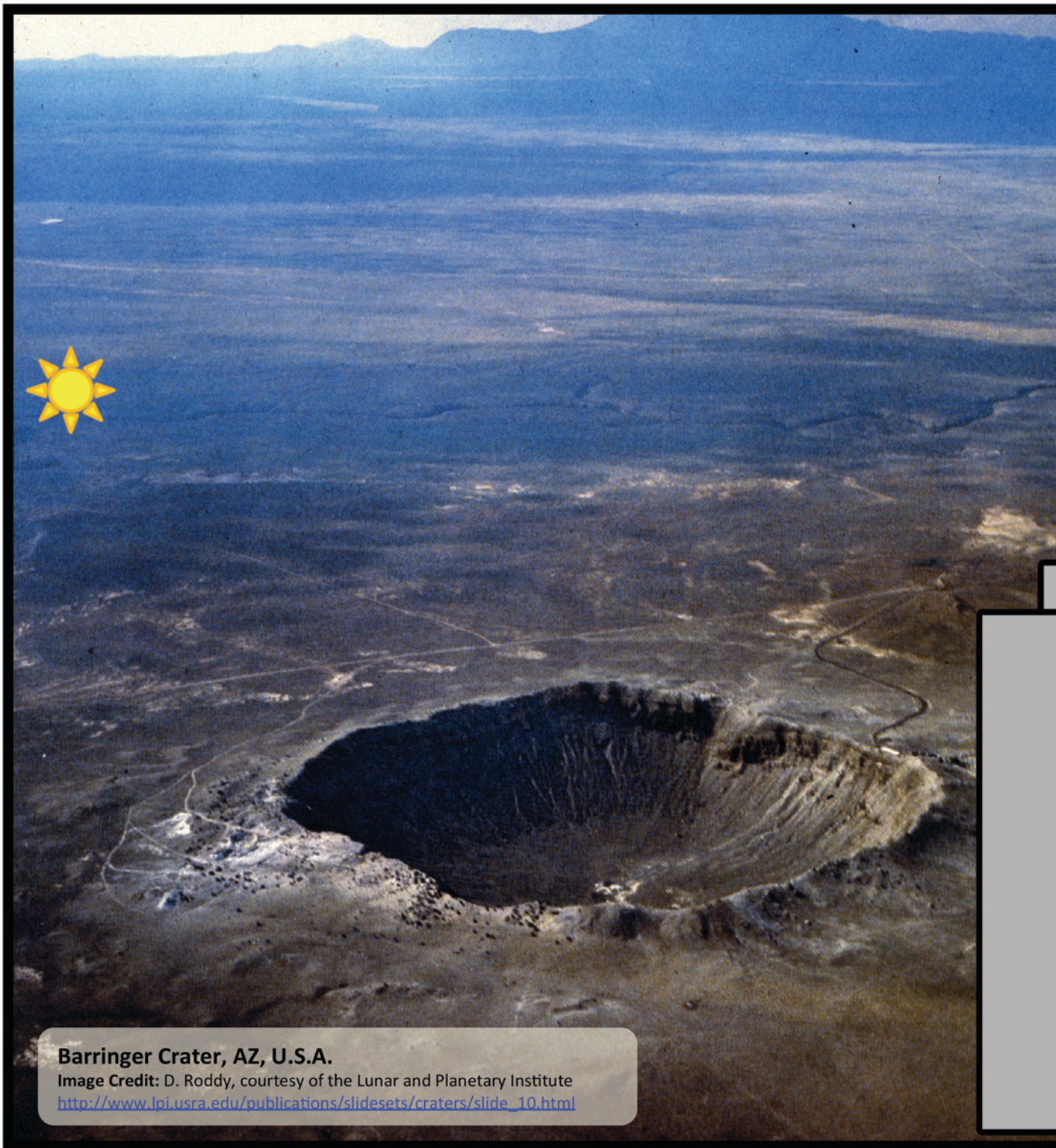
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Lena River Delta, Russia

Image Credit: Jacques Descloitres, MODIS Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC

<http://eoimages.gsfc.nasa.gov/images/imagerecords/62000/62431/Russia.A2002268.0315.250m.jpg>



Earth Image Placemat #3

This image was taken from an airplane looking across at Barringer Crater. The sunlight is shining from the left-hand side of the image.

The crater was created by the impact of a meteorite that struck Arizona about 50,000 years ago. This is a small crater, 1.2 kilometers across (0.75 miles) and 419 m deep (1300 feet).

The crater has a circular outline with a raised rim, and a deep, bowl-shaped shape.

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Barringer Crater, AZ, U.S.A.

Image Credit: D. Roddy, courtesy of the Lunar and Planetary Institute
http://www.lpi.usra.edu/publications/slidesets/craters/slide_10.html