



Tardigrades

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Microscopic **Earthlings** known as Tardigrades, likely survived a crash landing on the Moon surface by Israel's **Beresheet probe** in April, 2019.

Beresheet probe is a private mission to the Moon by **Israeli non-profit SpaceIL organisation**. It was successfully launched in February 2019, on board of **Falcon 9 rocket** from **Cape Canaveral** (Florida, USA) and arrived in lunar orbit in April 2019.

- Tardigrades are found in **terrestrial, marine, and freshwater environments** from the Arctic to the Antarctic, including great depths and altitudes.
- They **can withstand extreme radiation, sizzling heat, the coldest temperatures of**

the universe, and decades without food.



- Also known as **water bears or moss piglets**, they are capable of surviving temperatures as high as 150° Celsius and as low as minus 272° Celsius albeit for a few minutes.
- The grub-like, **eight-legged animals** can come back from being dried out to a lifeless husk for decades, **withstand near zero pressure in outer space** and the crushing depths of the **Mariana Trench**.
- They are **microscopic, multicellular**, and one of the **most durable forms of life** on planet Earth.

Source: TOI