82 | NOVEMBER 2005

Mistaken Point, near the southeast- ern tip of Newfoundland’s Avalon Peninsula, is one of the earliest known sites where life emerged. It was not "discovered" in the usual sense, but rather "rediscovered," as the area had been previously explored, but was not recognized as a site of significant geological interest. The land here is covered in a blanket of black, lumpy, volcanic rock, laced with small cliffs and rough terrain. The area was first explored by early 20th-century geologists, who noted the unusual abundance of fossils. The site was not extensively studied until the 1970s, when a team of scientists returned to the area and began to systematically collect and study the fossils. The site was finally designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

85 | NOVEMBER 2005

The Mistaken Point site is a geologic treasure trove, with fossils of over 2,000 species of bacteria, algae, and multicellular animals. The site is particularly important because it provides a window into the history of life on Earth, allowing scientists to study the evolution of early life forms. The fossils at Mistaken Point are some of the oldest and most complete records of life on Earth, and provide valuable insights into the development of complex organisms.

A 45-MINUTE JOURNEY through the site is a journey through time, as we walk among the ruins of life that once thrived here. The land is covered in a blanket of black, lumpy, volcanic rock, laced with small cliffs and rough terrain. The site was not extensively studied until the 1970s, when a team of scientists returned to the area and began to systematically collect and study the fossils. The site was finally designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

88 | NOVEMBER 2005

The Mistaken Point site is a geologic treasure trove, with fossils of over 2,000 species of bacteria, algae, and multicellular animals. The site is particularly important because it provides a window into the history of life on Earth, allowing scientists to study the evolution of early life forms. The fossils at Mistaken Point are some of the oldest and most complete records of life on Earth, and provide valuable insights into the development of complex organisms.

89 | NOVEMBER 2005

The Mistaken Point site is a geologic treasure trove, with fossils of over 2,000 species of bacteria, algae, and multicellular animals. The site is particularly important because it provides a window into the history of life on Earth, allowing scientists to study the evolution of early life forms. The fossils at Mistaken Point are some of the oldest and most complete records of life on Earth, and provide valuable insights into the development of complex organisms.