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The Colorado River meanders through the Grand Canyon under a full moon. Evidence shows that the signature of sands from the Bidahochi basin (southeast of this photo) matches that of ancestral Colorado River deposits. The arrival of the river there 6.6 million years ago marks a previously unconfirmed step in the integration of the river-canyon system, which set in motion the processes that shaped an iconic landscape. See page 289. Photo: Pete McBride

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