

Moon Rock



Each month The California Museum will introduce a new artifact with accompanying information and questions, which will consist of three different difficulty levels to choose from. To be used as a sponge or opening activity, you can use the artifact of the month for your students to study, question and form ideas. You can also print the image and place it on each student's desk, have them work in teams or project the image for a class activity.

Use the provided questions to help your students learn more about the artifact and its importance to California -- or make up your own questions. Most importantly, have fun!

Be sure to check out our web site, CaliforniaMuseum.org, for other interesting and unique activities for your students.

Moon Rock



For thousands of years, man had looked to the heavens and dreamed of walking on the moon. In 1969, as part of the Apollo 11 mission, Neil Armstrong became the very first to accomplish that dream, followed only minutes later by Buzz Aldrin. Their accomplishment placed the United States ahead of the Soviets in the Space Race and gave people around the world the hope of future space exploration.

There are currently three sources of Moon rocks on Earth:

- 1) those collected by US Apollo missions;
- 2) samples returned by the Soviet Union Luna missions
- 3) rocks that were ejected naturally from the lunar surface by cratering events and subsequently fell to Earth as lunar meteorites.

During the six Apollo surface excursions, 2,415 samples weighing 842 lb were collected, the majority by Apollo 15, 16, and 17.

The main repository for the Apollo moon rocks is the Lunar Sample Building at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. For safe keeping, there is also a smaller collection stored at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Most of the rocks are stored in nitrogen to keep them free of moisture. They are only handled indirectly, using special tools.

Moon rocks collected during the course of lunar exploration are currently considered priceless.

Moon Rock



Elementary

- 1) Who was the first man on the moon?
- 2) Who was the United States competing with to get to the moon?
- 3) Where are most of the moon rocks stored in the United States?

Middle

- 1) Which excursions collected the most rocks from the moon?
- 2) Who was the United States competing with to get to the moon, and what is it called today?
- 3) Who were the two men to set foot on the moon?

High School

- 1) Why do you think moon rocks are of great scientific importance?
- 2) What are the moon rocks stored in? And why?
- 3) Why would moon rocks be considered priceless?

Activity

