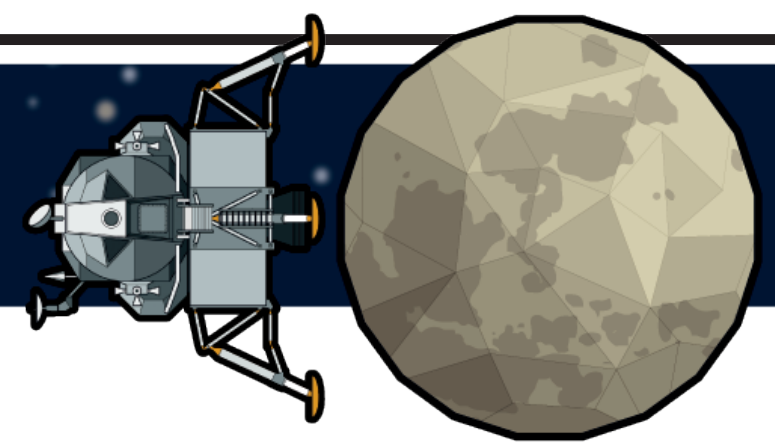
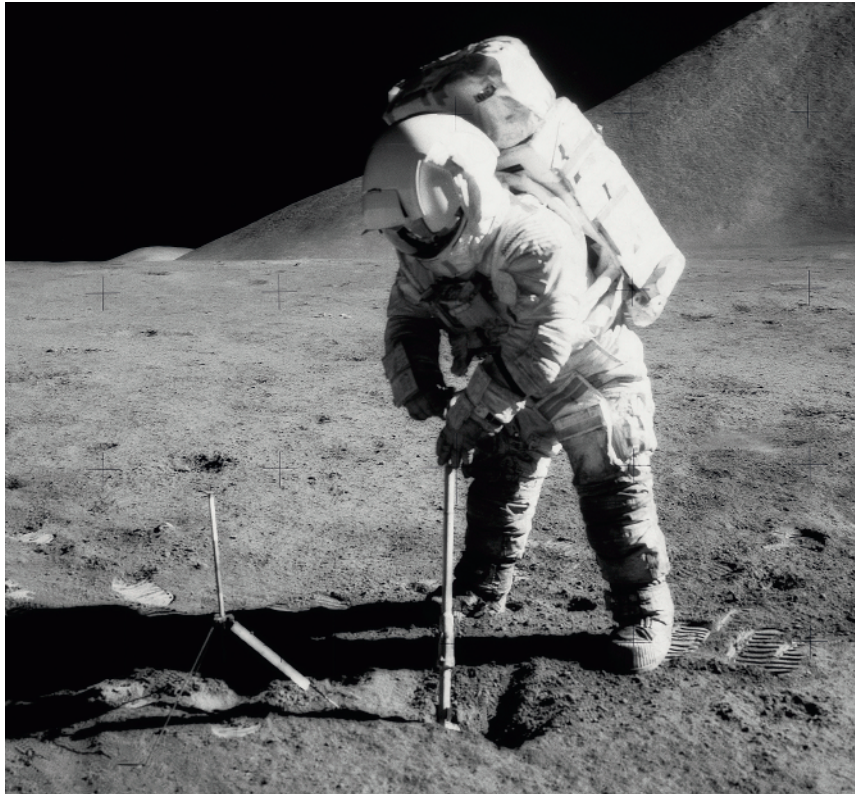


THE APOLLO LUNAR DISK



The soil and rock samples in this disk were returned to the Earth from the Moon during the Apollo missions in the late 1960s and early 1970s.



Collecting the Samples:
In this image, Apollo 15 astronaut James B Irwin collects rock samples from the Moon

ANORTHOSITE



Apollo 16, 1972

This white rock is composed almost entirely of crystals of one mineral, feldspar. Rocks like this make up much of the Highlands of the Moon, where feldspar produces the light colour.

BRECCIA



Apollo 15, 1971

This rock is made of fragments of other rocks that were broken by collisions of meteorites with the Moon. The fragments were heated by the collisions that broke them apart, so that sharp edges melted and stuck to other grains to form a new rock, composed entirely of broken rocks and smaller mineral grains, called a breccia.



BASALT **Apollo 15, 1971**

This is the dark rock that makes up the Mare of the Moon. Produced by cooling magma, it flowed into the lower lying land of the Moon, produce the dark 'seas' you can make out on the Moon.

MARE SOIL



Apollo 17, 1972

The Mare are the dark regions that you can sometimes make out on the Moon. This soil was produced by meteorites hitting basalt rocks (like the one in this disk) and breaking it into many smaller pieces. Some of the rock is even melted into glass!

HIGHLAND SOIL



Apollo 15, 1971

The fragments that make up this soil are from the breakup of highlands rocks by meteorites. The rocks in the highlands of the Moon are much older than those in the mare. The soil is made up of particles of rocks, of broken mineral grains, and of glasses melted from rocks and minerals by the impacts of meteorites on the Moon's surface.

ORANGE SOIL



Apollo 17, 1972

This strange soil is a mixture of dark red and black balls, and broken pieces of them. This soil was made 3.5 billion years ago from sprays of lava blown out of a volcano which cooled and formed glass balls.

