

APOLLO – SETTING THE SCENE



OVERVIEW

This lesson sets the scene for the study of the Lunar Discs, and gets students to think about the contexts and history leading to the collection of the Lunar samples in the loan boxes. By considering the events of the space race, role playing taking a moonwalk, and considering the actions of the astronauts, students will have a greater understanding of the significance of the lunar samples.

CURRICULUM LINKS

History - the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements.

Science – describe the basic needs of animals, including humans

WHAT YOU NEED

A1 PowerPoint

Paper and pencils/
crayons

Apollo 11 Introduction
video

Moon themed music
or audio of the moon
landings

1.1 Things to take to the
Moon sheet



STARTER

Show the first slide of the Moon imagery PowerPoint. Ask students to draw a picture of what they think it is like on the surface of the Moon. Use the pictures to find out what student's conception of the Moon is and its surface. Go through the Moon Imagery PowerPoint and get the students to compare the images to their own. What words can they use to describe the surface of the Moon?



A1 PowerPoint

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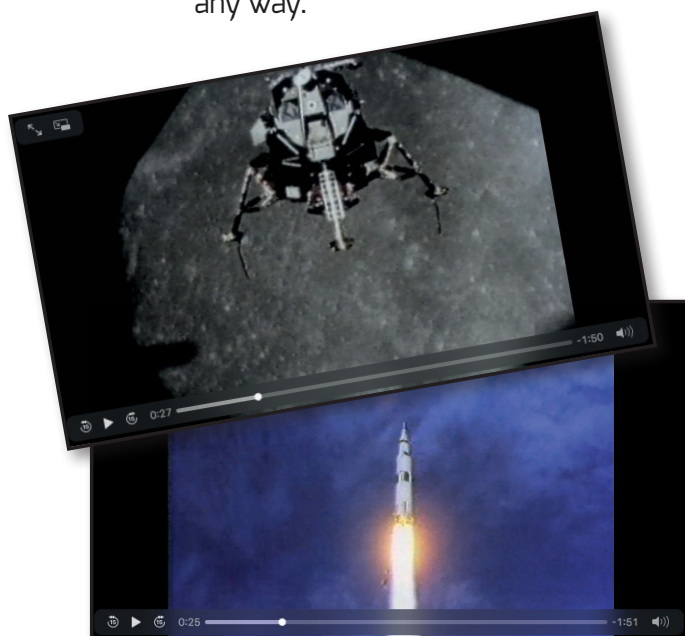


MAIN ACTIVITY

Mention to students that they are very lucky that they will be able to look at some samples of rocks and soil that were brought back from the Moon. But to set the scene, they need to think about what it was like for the astronauts that first set foot on an alien world.

Watch video of the Apollo 11 Moon landings 'Apollo 11 Introduction'. Discuss the excitement about the mission and how unique it was. To this day only 12 men have walked on the Moon.

Ask children if the Moon landings were as they expected or different in any way.



Apollo 11 Introduction video

ACTIVITY 1.1 THINGS TO TAKE TO THE MOON

During the Apollo missions, astronauts were allowed to take some personal items with them. These included photographs, a gold brooch and even golf balls and clubs.

If you were going on a mission to the Moon, what 5 items would you take with you? Give a reason for why you would take each item.

ITEM 1	ITEM 2	ITEM 3	ITEM 4	ITEM 5
WHY?	WHY?	WHY?	WHY?	WHY?

THINGS TO TAKE TO MOON

1.1 Things to take to the Moon

Play Moon themed music or <http://www.firstmenonthemoon.com/> the recordings of the Apollo 11 landings for background.

As a class get all children to imagine getting ready for their own space mission putting on imaginary space boots. Stepping into the space suit, pulling on the helmet, attaching the gloves. Switch on the air, open the hatch and take an imaginary space walk.

Working in pairs or threes ask children to talk about the feelings the astronauts may have had before the mission took place, during the landing and once they landed on the Moon successfully. Share their thoughts with the class.

Children should now write/ draw a list of the 5 most important articles they would want to take with them to space if they were an astronaut. Make sure students think about the weight and size of the items they would want to take, which are the most important and why. You may wish to say air and food is already taken care of.



PLENARY

Discuss children's priorities for items they need/ want for space and see if you can agree on a class list which

you can display in your classroom.

Refer to the drawings children did at the beginning of the class is there anything they would change?