

MOON CONSPIRACIES



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INTRODUCTION

In this activity you are going to:

To analyse statements for and against the Moon landings and consider the reliability of the statements and sources

To explore evidence surrounding these statements and decide whether it supports or contradicts the statements

To use critical thinking to decide whether humans really did land on the Moon

Branding


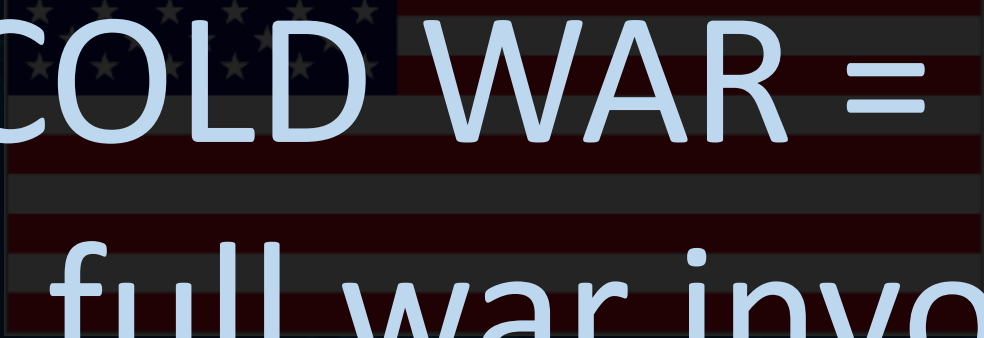
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The Space Race



COLD WAR = Never broke into a
full war involving weapons. A
war of beliefs and pride.

vs

USSR



Sergei
Korolev



Wernher
Von Braun

THE PRESSURE WAS ON...

BUT DID THEY REALLY DO IT?

What do you think?

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ANALYSING THE THEORIES

Around the room are a series of statements that have been made about the Apollo Moon Landings.

You need to read them, summarise them and decide whether you think they are for or against the Moon landings.

You will then look at some more evidence and decide whether this supports any of the statements.





STATEMENT 1

Astronauts trained in a replica moon environment – wouldn't it have been easy just to film it there?



STATEMENT 2

The pictures are too clear!
Why don't they look as fuzzy as other pictures from the late 60s?



STATEMENT 3

In this picture of Buzz Aldrin on the Moon, you can clearly see Neil Armstrong reflected in the visor – but who is taking the picture?



STATEMENT 4

Astronauts brought back parts of Surveyor 3, a probe that was sent to the Moon in 1967.



STATEMENT 5

In 1969 America was taking part in an unpopular war in Vietnam. The Moon landings were a way to distract the public from what was going on.



STATEMENT 6

An employee called Bill Kaysing who worked for the company that made the engines for the Saturn V rocket that supposedly took people to the Moon claimed the rockets did not work properly.



STATEMENT 7

The Soviet Union was in a race with America to get to the Moon first. If the Moon landings were faked, surely the Soviet Union would know and would expose the Apollo missions as a fraud.



STATEMENT 8

The Moon Lander used large rockets to slow it down as it landed on the Moon, yet we cannot see evidence of a crater underneath the lander.



STATEMENT 9

The Apollo astronauts would have had to travel through the Van Allen radiation belt – a region of extremely high radiation. This would be very dangerous for them.



STATEMENT 10

Several different countries were involved in tracking the rockets that went to the Moon.



STATEMENT 11

Modern satellites sent to the Moon have taken pictures of the landing sites that seem to show items left by Apollo astronauts and even the paths that they took.



STATEMENT 12

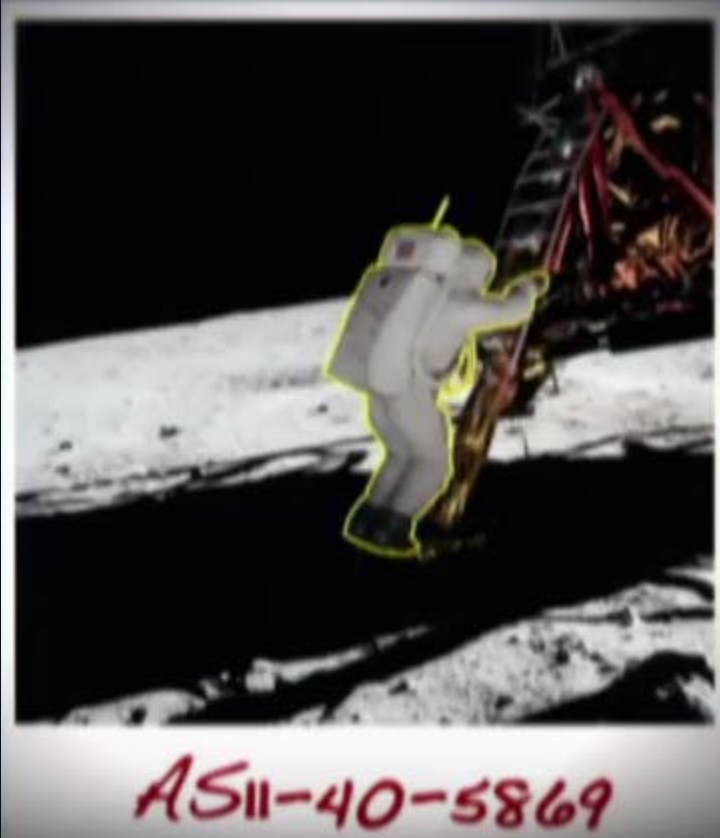
There is video footage of Neil Armstrong getting out of the lunar lander and taking his first step onto the Moon – but who filmed this?



STATEMENT 13

The astronauts' cameras used photographic film that would be destroyed by the heat and the radiation on the surface of the Moon.

ASTRONAUT IN THE SHADE



Source: Mythbusters

What argument do you think this image presents?

How can we see the astronaut when he is clearly in the shade of the Lunar lander? He looks as if he is being lit by studio lights.

CAN YOU THINK OF AN EXPLANATION?



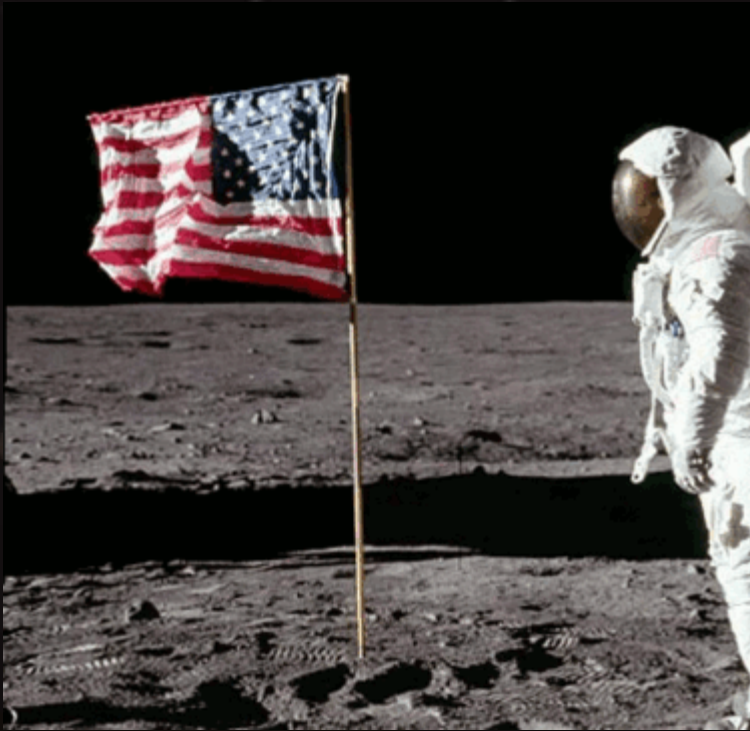
EXPLANATION

Lunar soil reflects a huge amount of light. Light hitting the Moon outside of the Lunar lander's shadow reflects in all directions, some of which reaches the astronaut.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPj60sy9Cfw&t>



THE FLAG!



What argument do you think this image presents?

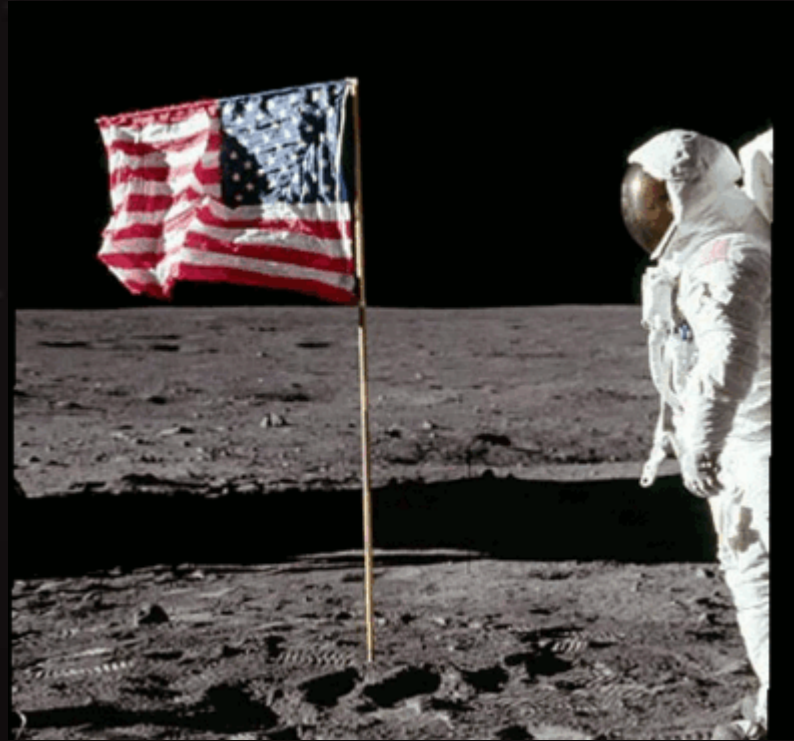
The flag looks like it is being blown – but there is no atmosphere on the Moon, so surely this could not have been taken on the Moon!

CAN YOU THINK OF AN EXPLANATION?



EXPLANATION

- 1) The flag got rumped in transport and when they unfurled it, it maintained these creases.
- 2) The flag was held up by a thin wire rod to hold it out. As the astronauts put the flag pole into the lunar soil, they had to wiggle it around a lot. With no atmosphere on the Moon it took a long time for these movements to die down (become dampened)



Here you can see two different frames.
The astronaut moves, but the flag does not!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhab86KoVjU>



HOPPING?



What argument do you think this image presents?

Why is he moving like that? Why can't he jump further if the Moon has $\frac{1}{6}$ of the Earth's gravitational field strength? Why doesn't he just walk normally?

CAN YOU THINK OF AN EXPLANATION?



EXPLANATION

- 1) The spacesuit was extremely heavy and bulky.
- 2) In such low gravity, a hopping style is actually the most efficient way to get about since a normal step will push you higher than you expect and you compensate.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM5-BhMNXOI>

