

ACTIVITY 3B - Would I Lie To You?

Cut these sentences into strips to hand out to the groups. Brief answers are given on page on the next page.

The Moon is getting bigger every year

The Earth used to have three Moons

Somebody's ashes are buried on the Moon

One astronaut drove a golf ball nearly 800 metres on the Moon

The Moon is made of cheese

The Moon has no atmosphere

The Moon is a very windy place

An early astronomer thought that he had seen an elephant on the Moon.

The Great Wall of China is visible from the Moon

Footprints on the Moon will last forever

The land speed record on the Moon is about 10 mph

The oldest lunar calendar was discovered in a cave in Lascaux, France, and is thought to be about 15 000 years old

The Moon used to be closer to the Earth

An early astronomer thought that he had seen an elephant on the Moon.

ANSWERS

The Moon is getting bigger every year

LIE: The actual size of the moon is not changing. It is getting further away from the Earth at 3.8cm per year.

The Earth used to have three Moons

LIE: There have been lots of claims by astronomers and others over the years, but the Moon is our only Moon. There are near Earth objects, but these are not counted as moons.

Somebody's ashes are buried on the Moon

TRUE: Some of the ashes of Eugene Shoemaker were sent on an unmanned satellite Lunar Prospector, which eventually crashed into the Moon.

One astronaut drove a golf ball nearly 800 metres on the Moon

TRUE: Apollo 14 astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. drove a golf ball on the Moon. He took three balls and messed up two shots. The third one went 800m.

The Moon is made of cheese

LIE: It's made of rock!

The Moon has no atmosphere

TRUE: There are tiny traces of some gases, but it is close to a vacuum. Keep your space helmet on!

The Moon is a very windy place

LIE: With no atmosphere there can be no wind. Flags on the moon were held up on rigid arms. It may have been windy inside spacesuits.

An early astronomer thought that he had seen an elephant on the Moon

TRUE: An astronomer once claimed to have seen an elephant on the Moon. It was actually a mouse that had crawled inside his telescope, and he thought that its tail was the trunk of an elephant. Samuel Butler wrote a poem about this.

The Great Wall of China is visible from the Moon

LIE: It is barely visible from low Earth orbit. The continents are hard enough to make out from the Moon. No chance of seeing a wall.

Footprints on the Moon will last forever

LIE: Apollo footprints have lasted over 40 years. They have been photographed by the LROC satellite. Eventually the bombardment of micrometeorites will destroy them. It may take thousands or possibly millions of years, but not forever.

The land speed record on the Moon is about 10 mph

TRUE: It's actually just over 11 mph in the Lunar Rover.

The oldest lunar calendar was discovered in a cave in Lascaux, France, and is thought to be about 15 000 years old

TRUE: Honest! Google it!

The Moon used to be closer to the Earth

TRUE: The moon was closer and our tides were HUGE. The BBC Orbit DVD has a section on that.

The diameter of the Moon is about 1/10 of the Earth's diameter

FALSE: Mean diameter Earth: 12,742 km Moon: 3,476 km That's about 1/4