

Lunar Geology

How to make your very own
“Moon Rock”

Back Ground

On July 19, 1969, the United States' NASA program first landed a manned space craft on the moon. As Michael Collins orbited overhead in the command module *Columbia*, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin Jr. descended to the lunar surface in the landing craft *Eagle*. Six hours after landing, the two astronauts left the *Eagle* and began to explore the lunar surface.

“That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!”

- As Neil Armstrong first stepped down onto the moon’s surface, he uttered the famous words written above and he effectively summed up the momentous occasion. In fact, the race between the nations to reach Earth’s only natural satellite resulted in the many significant scientific leaps.

One such scientific leap occurred when the astronauts gathered several pounds of moon rocks. The new science of lunar geology was born. Geology is the study of rocks; so lunar geology is the study of moon rocks. Now, under the supervision of an adult, you can make your own ‘moon rock’ which has an appearance very similar to the real ones.

Supplies You Will Need

- 1 cup oatmeal (regular or instant)
- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup water
- brown acrylic paint
- silver glitter

Procedure

- Mix together all the ingredients in a small bowl. With the mixture, shape a rock with lots of crags and crevices. Place on a piece of aluminum foil.

Allow the compound to dry for a few days, or ask an adult to bake your rock in a 200° oven for a few hours or until dry.

Paint your rock brown and sprinkle with glitter to simulate the glass found on the original moon rocks.

This activity was borrowed from an article in the Daily Oklahoman, July 22, 2002 by Kathy Antoniotti. The author credits the website www.dltk-kids.com/recipes/ with the recipe for the modeling compound.