



The Smell of the Moon

Experience the distinctive smell of the Moon

Overview

The Moon is somewhere most of us would like to visit if we could. To give us a sense of what it's like this aroma matches what Neil and Buzz described the Moon smelling of.

What is it showing?

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the Moon in July 1969. Once they returned to Earth, they did their best to describe the experience to everyone else. One element highlighted by Buzz Aldrin was the distinctive smell of gunpowder on the Extra-Vehicular Activity suits used on the surface of the Moon.

Why is this important?

The smell of the Moon is an interesting experience as it's not one the crew of Neil and Buzz would have experienced during their space walk activities. However, upon returning to the capsule after their mission they noted a distinctive aroma. This activity is to give people a sense of that smell to help them imagine what it may have been like to go on that incredible mission.

Image credit: NASA and ASDC

How to run the activity

To run the activity using the smell of the Moon kit you will need the box of aroma and a well-ventilated area. Give the audience some context around the mission to the Moon explaining how Neil and Buzz could only smell this aroma once they were back in the Lunar Module. During their spacewalks the isolated environment of the suit and helmet separated them from it. Once they got back inside and took off their helmets, they could experience the smell coming from the outside of their space suits. You can then invite audiences to smell from the box of aroma. The aroma is provided from a sponge soaked in an aromatic oil within the box. The sponge will need to be recharged with fresh oil after 1-2 months of use.

