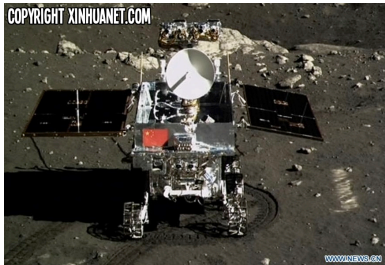


Jade Rabbit sends photos from the Moon

18th December, 2013



China's scientific expedition to the Moon has sent back its first photos of the lunar surface. A robot called the Jade Rabbit became the first vehicle to traverse the Moon's

volcanic ash since America's Apollo missions four decades ago. Scientists at China's mission control were ecstatic as the first high-quality images came through of an area of the Moon known as the Bay of Rainbows. The photos showed the rover with the Chinese flag clearly visible against the dark of space. Jade Rabbit is expected to test soil samples ahead of the possible mining of the Moon's rocks and minerals. A Chinese scientist said: "China's lunar programme is an important component of mankind's activities to explore the peaceful use of space."

The South China Morning Post described the Moon landing as a landmark achievement in Chinese history. It wrote: "The world long ago sat up and took notice of China's rapid rise as a space power....But nothing compares with the scientific and technological significance of the landing on the moon at 9.12 on Saturday night." It said the mission, "has transformed China's dream of putting a man on the moon into a given; sooner rather than later". China's science fiction writers are also overjoyed with their country's success. Chen Qiufan described his vision of the future, saying: "I think everything will look differently when a Chinese person looks at Earth from the Moon." He added: "I expect that day will come."

Sources: People Daily / Xinhuanet.com / SMCP.com

Writing

Outline the pros and cons of mining the Moon's resources. Should it go ahead?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

expedition / volcanic ash / ecstatic / flag / the dark of space / mining / explore / space / landmark / achievement / take notice / space power / man on the moon / vision

True / False

- Jade Rabbit is the first vehicle ever to cross volcanic ash on the Moon. T / F
- Scientists weren't too happy with the first images Jade Rabbit sent. T / F
- Jade Rabbit is expected to do tests on the Moon's resources. T / F
- China said it wants to find peaceful ways to use space. T / F
- A China newspaper said the Moon landing left a mark on the land. T / F
- The newspaper said the world had recognized China as a space power. T / F
- China's science fiction writers said the Moon landing wasn't so special T / F
- One writer thinks a Chinese person will visit the moon one day. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. expedition | a. overjoyed |
| 2. traverse | b. picture |
| 3. ecstatic | c. noticeable |
| 4. visible | d. milestone |
| 5. explore | e. importance |
| 6. landmark | f. mission |
| 7. achievement | g. investigate |
| 8. significance | h. travel over |
| 9. vision | i. believe |
| 10. expect | j. triumph |

Discussion – Student A

- Will China's Moon landing spark a space race?
- What could countries achieve in space if they collaborated more?
- Would you be excited at watching another person walk on the Moon?
- Does your country have a history of exploration?
- What is your vision of the future and the Moon?
- What would it be like to live on the Moon?
- How would Earth look from the Moon?
- What questions would you like to ask the head of China's space programme?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. scientific expedition | a. peaceful use of space |
| 2. the first vehicle to traverse the | b. China's rapid rise |
| 3. Scientists at China's mission control | c. than later |
| 4. clearly visible against | d. were ecstatic |
| 5. explore the | e. day will come |
| 6. a landmark | f. Moon's volcanic ash |
| 7. took notice of | g. to the Moon |
| 8. sooner rather | h. of the future |
| 9. his vision | i. the dark of space |
| 10. I expect that | j. achievement |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of China's Moon landing?
- What do you hope China will achieve with its Moon landing?
- Would you like to go to the Moon? What would you do there?
- Why do you think the name of China's rover is Jade Rabbit?
- Why has it been 40 years since anyone sent an expedition to the moon?
- How excited do you get about space exploration and Moon landings?
- Would you be a good astronaut?
- What are the "peaceful" uses of space?

Spelling

- China's scientific tpexnoiiied to the Moon
- photos of the lunar csfauer
- streerav the Moon's volcanic ash
- Scientists at China's mission control were ecatscit
- the Moon's rocks and snimearl
- an important noneptmoc
- a landmark hcteimveaen
- scientific and technological gnsceiifinca
- the mission has ntrosardmef China's dream
- science fniociti writers
- his svioni of the future
- everything will look niryletffde

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. a	4. c	5. g
6. d	7. j	8. e	9. b	10. i

Role Play

Role A – The Moon

You think the Moon is the best place for an expedition. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): a Kenyan safari, the Sahara Desert or the Amazon.

Role B – A Kenyan Safari

You think a Kenyan safari is the best place for an expedition. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): the Moon, the Sahara Desert or the Amazon.

Role C – The Sahara Desert

You think the Sahara Desert is the best place for an expedition. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): a Kenyan safari, the Moon or the Amazon.

Role D – The Amazon

You think the Amazon is the best place for an expedition. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): a Kenyan safari, the Sahara Desert or the Moon.

Speaking - Expedition

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the one you most want to go on at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| • the Moon | • the top of Mount Everest |
| • the North Pole | • across the Sahara |
| • a safari | • along the Silk Road |
| • Mars | • from Cairo to Cape Town |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.