

Student and Teacher Questions and Answers

Lunar Art

I just had a quick question about my project on lunar art. I was just wondering if the supplies being sent to the moon contained a good amount of paper and if there would be a lot of recycled material?

There will be some printed papers and they will have printers for printing new documents or experiments. NASA is and will be moving to using less paper in the future but I expect there will always be some things that are always printed. I am sure they will try to reuse many of their common materials. Of course there won't be any recycling facilities on the moon and sending it back to Earth will probably too expensive. I'm expecting there will be quite a bit of trash—probably lots of packing materials.

When the Apollo astronauts went to the moon, they were allowed to take a small personal item. One took a family photo and left it on the moon. Another took a falcon feather and used it to demonstrate how a feather and his hammer would fall at the same rate when in the vacuum of space. Alan Shepard on Apollo 14 took a golf ball and swapped out the head of his long handle shovel for something that resembled a golf club head so he could hit the golf ball on the moon—it went for “miles and miles”. With that in mind Gene Gordon and I thought that if an astronaut artists wanted to bring a small item(s) to help with their art, we should allow the same for you. So....if for your lunar art project, your team wanted to bring some kind of supply that would fit in the volume and weight of a golf ball, you may include it in your project.