



Moon's Surface Marked by New Impact Scar

Description

Look up at a full Moon on a clear night, and you see a surface marked by billions of years of impacts. The dark patches are large basins created by huge space rocks crashing into the Moon. The lighter areas have many craters, each one a sign of a collision long before humans existed. The Moon has no weather to change its surface, so what hits it, stays there.

The Moon is still being struck by space rocks every day. These impacts create new craters on a surface that lacks weather, erosion, or anything to hide behind. While scientists know these impacts happen, they rarely observe them as they occur.

In late spring 2024, a significant impact occurred on the Moon. A space rock hit the surface, creating a crater 225 metres wide, similar in size to two football pitches. Thanks to NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera, scientists compared images taken before and after the event. Before this, the largest crater discovered during the mission was only 70 metres wide. This new crater is more than three times larger, an event that should only happen once every 139 years.

The crater is funnel-shaped and 43 metres deep, with steep walls. Around it, large blocks of rock were thrown out by the impact. The impact's direction can be traced by how the debris is spread. Inside, scientists found dark glassy rock formed by the intense heat of the collision. The high-quality images taken before and after the impact will help researchers understand how craters form, not just on the Moon, but throughout the Solar System.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What caused the dark patches on the Moon's surface?

- Option: Human activities
- Option: Weather changes
- Option: Space rocks crashing
- Option: Volcanic eruptions

2. What was the width of the new crater created by the impact in late spring 2024?

- Option: 70 metres
- Option: 225 metres



Option: 150 metres

Option: 100 metres

3. How deep is the newly created crater?

Option: 30 metres

Option: 25 metres

Option: 43 metres

Option: 50 metres

4. What type of images helped scientists compare the Moon's surface before and after the impact?

Option: Infrared images

Option: Satellite images

Option: Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera images

Option: Ground-based telescopic images

5. How often is an event like the crater creation expected to occur?

Option: Every year

Option: Every 50 years

Option: Every 139 years

Option: Every 200 years

6. What material was found inside the crater formed by the impact?

Option: Ice

Option: Glassy rock

Option: Dust

Option: Sandstone

True-False

7. The Moon's surface is constantly changing due to weather.

8. The largest crater discovered during the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter mission was previously 70 metres wide.

9. Scientists often observe impacts on the Moon as they happen.

10. The new crater is more than three times larger than the largest previously discovered crater.



11. Debris from the impact can help determine the direction of the impact.

12. The crater created by the impact in 2024 is a shallow pond.

Gap-Fill

13. The Moon has no weather, so what hits it, stays there. The impacts create new craters on a surface that lacks weather or _____ .

14. In late spring 2024, a significant impact occurred on the Moon, creating a crater _____ metres wide.

15. The crater is funnel-shaped and _____ metres deep.

16. NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera compared images taken before and _____ the impact.

17. The crater's formation is an event that happens once every _____ years.

18. Inside the crater, scientists found dark glassy rock formed by the intense _____ of the collision.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Space rocks crashing 2. 225 metres 3. 43 metres 4. Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera images 5. Every 139 years 6. Glassy rock

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. erosion 14. 225 15. 43 16. after 17. 139 18. heat

CATEGORY

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