



## Mare = Basalt

Mostly: Pyroxene (Fe,Mg)Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, Plagioclase Ca(Si,Al)<sub>4</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, Olivine (Mg,Fe)<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>4</sub>, Ilmenite FeTiO<sub>3</sub>

Rare: Armalcolite

(Mg,Fe)Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, Tranquillityite Fe<sub>8</sub>(Zr,Y)<sub>2</sub>Ti<sub>3</sub>Si<sub>3</sub>O<sub>24</sub>









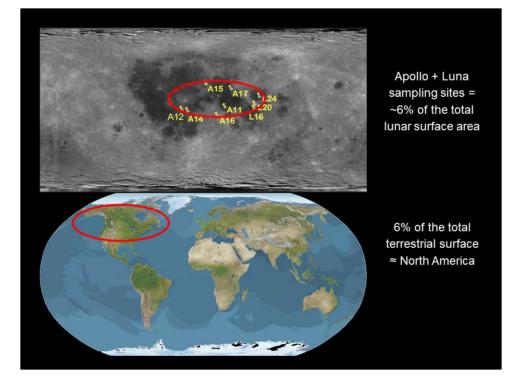
The deep parts of many large impact basins were later filled by eruptions of basaltic lava. This forms the circular Mare Imbrium (left image). At right, shadows reveal the edges of a long lava flow from the lower left to the upper right of the image. The volcanism in Mare Imbrium occurred about 3.3 billion years ago (7 am on our clock). Because of its small size, the Moon cooled quickly and was mostly dead volcanically by 3 billion years ago, although limited volcanism in isolated regions is thought to have occurred as recently as 1 to 2 billion years ago.

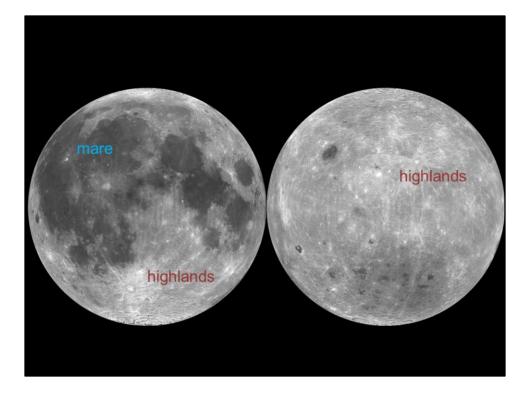
## Lunar Volcanism

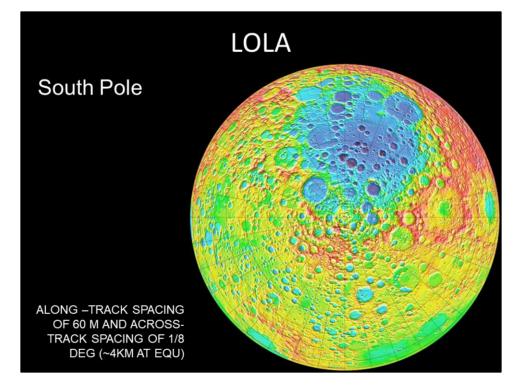
Portions of the Moon's interior remained hot enough to produce magma for more than a billion years after it formed. Molten rock flowed onto the lunar surface through cracks in the crust, spreading out and filling the low regions in the impact basins. The lava cooled quickly, forming the fine-grained, dark rocks — basalt — sampled during the Apollo missions. The dark areas seen on the Moon are basaltic lava plains 4.2 to 1 billion

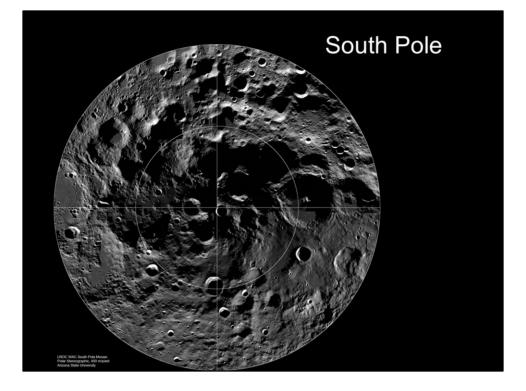
(place at 3.5) Lunar volcanism decreased significantly by 3 billion years ago and ceased completely by about 1 billion years ago as the interior of this small body cooled. 3.0 Ga



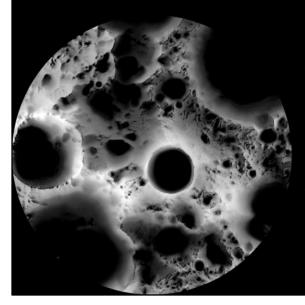






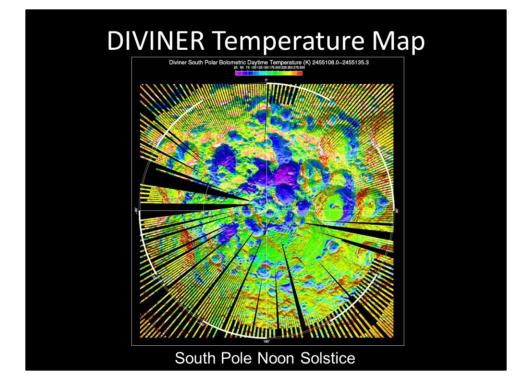


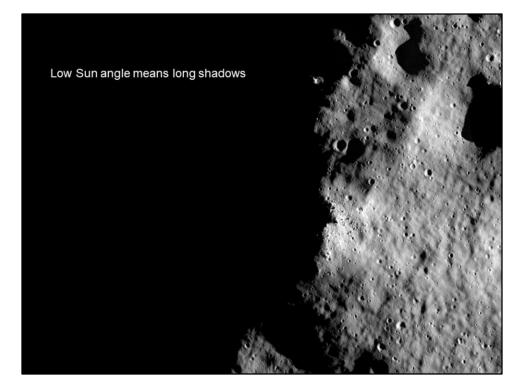
## Light and Shadow

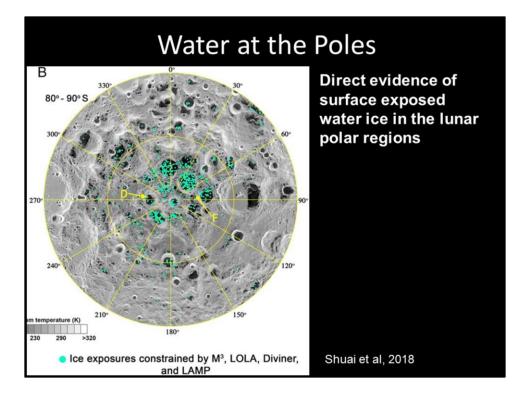


Illumination map of the South Pole compiled over 6 months.

Brighter = more days of sunlight, Darker = more days in shadow





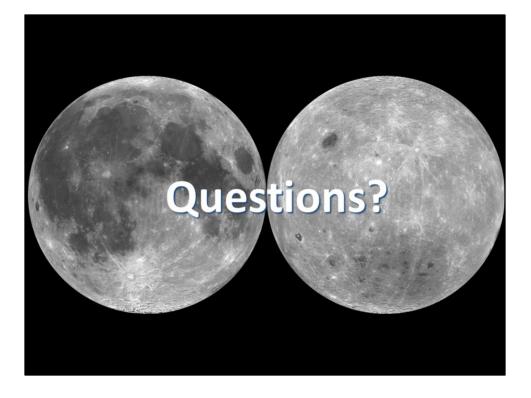


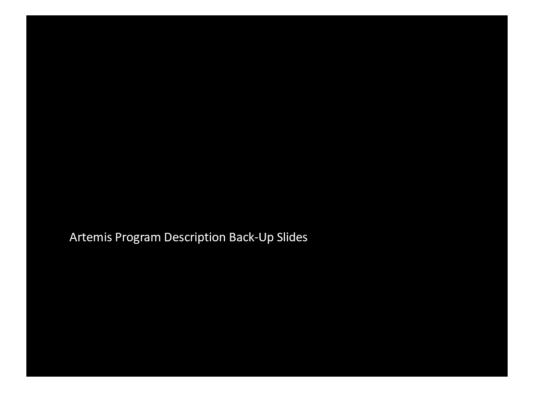
## **Big Science Questions**

- Where are the polar volatiles and how did they get there?
  What are the chemical and isotopic compositions of volatile deposits?
- How did the Moon form/evolve?

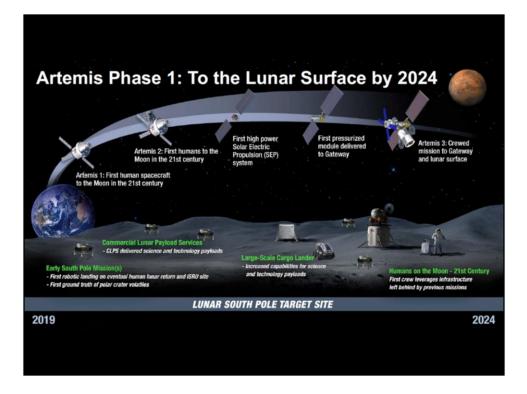
 Sampling of ancient crust/mantle material, and geophysical measurements (seismometer/heat flow probe) will provide new insight into the lunar interior structure and composition, and of the Moon's geologic evolution

- Are there rock types that we didn't sample in Apollo, and what can they tell us about the Moon's evolution?
- Can we use the Moon to understand the distribution and timescale of impacts and volcanism on the inner planets?
- Can we explore craters to understand the physics of impact cratering, the most prevalent geologic process in the Solar System





Following slides taken from Administrator Bridenstein's presentation to the public on June 6, 2019.



CREW NASA Programs SLS and Orion	Artemi	- 4	Artemis 2	Artemis 3	
	First fligh of SLS ar as an inte system	nt test nd Orion	First flight of crew to the Moon aboard SLS and Orion	First crew to t	vered
Between now and 2024, U.S. indu	ustry delivers the laur	iches and huma	n landing system nec	essary for a faster retu	urn to the Moor
Between now and 2024, U.S. inde		ainability throug	h Gateway.	essary for a faster retu Human Landing Sys	
Between now and 2024, U.S. inde			h Gateway.		







