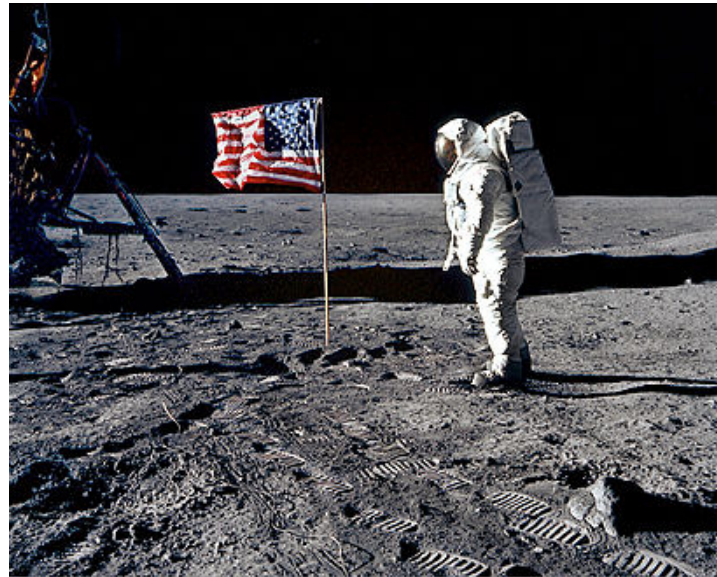


Did the U.S. Really Send Astronauts to Land on and Explore the Moon Six Times Between July 1969 and December 1972?



Astronaut Edwin
"Buzz" Aldrin Jr.,
Apollo 11 LEM Pilot,
July 21, 1969
Courtesy of NASA

Marist College – Online
Poughkeepsie, NY
IDCP Data Center Technology Program
CSIS 103 - Computer Skills and Information Literacy
Final Project
William F. Slater, III
February 25, 2006

Introduction

- NASA and the United States government claim: Six Moon visits between July 1969 and December 1972.
- Many regard this achievement as the greatest accomplishment of the human race.
- Many believe it is one of grandest hoaxes of all time.
- Will attempt to present research on both sides, examine and explain both sides of the argument, and come to some kind of meaningful conclusion.

FACT?



Astronaut Edwin
"Buzz" Aldrin Jr.,
Apollo 11 LEM Pilot,
July 21, 1969
Courtesy of NASA

or



Altered NASA photo
taken from an
eBay Item Auction
February 2006

Why the Cause for Hoax Suspicions and Why Now?

- Some people have made it their life's goal to pursue this effort.
- Many people love conspiracy theories
- Many people mistrust the U.S. government
- Phenomena such as the Internet, the World Wide Web, self-published books, allow hoax theorists to communicate their message to the masses more efficiently



Bill Kaysing, author and leading original conspiracy theorist
We Never Went to the Moon.



Altered NASA photo taken from an eBay Item Auction February 2006

A Brief History of the U.S. Manned Space Flight Program – 1961 through 1972

- **The Race to the Moon begins with President John F. Kennedy**
 - **“We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too.”**
 - President Kennedy at Rice University in Houston, TX, May 1962.



U.S. President
John. F. Kennedy
Delivers his State of the
Union Address in January
1961, declaring that the
U.S. will go to the Moon.
Courtesy of NASA

A Brief History of the U.S. Manned Space Flight Program – 1961 through 1972

- **Mercury Program** (Lattimer, 1984)
 - Six successful one-man space flights
 - Proved NASA could safely send a man into space in controlled space flight and bring him home safely
- **Gemini Program** (Lattimer, 1984)
 - 10 two-man space flights
 - Rendezvous and docking
 - Long-term flights
 - Multiple hour work outside the spacecraft
 - Pinpoint reentries
 - Advanced reliable spacecraft systems
 - Trained flight and ground crews for the upcoming Apollo program



Mercury / Gemini
Astronaut Gordon Cooper
Courtesy of NASA



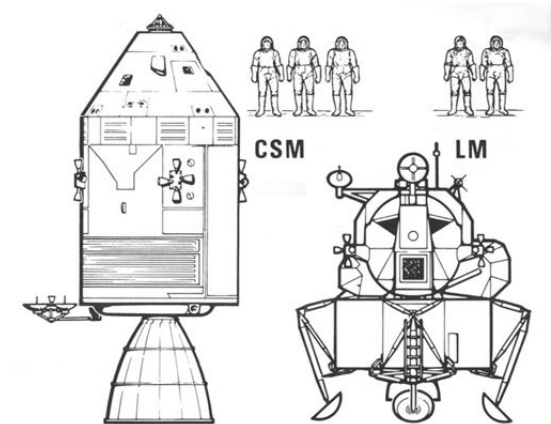
Mercury Spacecraft
Courtesy of McDonnell
Douglas



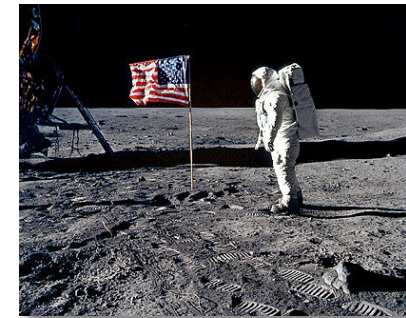
Space Rendezvous:
Gemini 6 and Gemini 7
December 15, 1965
Courtesy of NASA

A Brief History of the U.S. Manned Space Flight Program – 1961 through 1972

- **Apollo Program** (Lattimer, 1984)
 - 3-man command service module, with 2-man Lunar Excursion Module
 - Saturn V launch vehicle on 10 space flights
 - Saturn 1B launch vehicle on six space flights
 - 16 three-man space flights
 - Nine trips to the Moon
 - Six landings on the Moon – first was July 20, 1969, last was December 11, 1972
 - One aborted trip to the Moon in April 1970 due to a life-threatening catastrophic failure of the Service Module during the Apollo 13 mission
 - The last Apollo flights were
 - In support of four Skylab missions
 - for the historic 1975 Apollo – Soyuz Mission
 - Rendezvous and docking
 - Long-term flights
 - Multiple hour work outside the spacecraft, on the Moon
 - Pinpoint reentries
 - Advanced reliable spacecraft systems



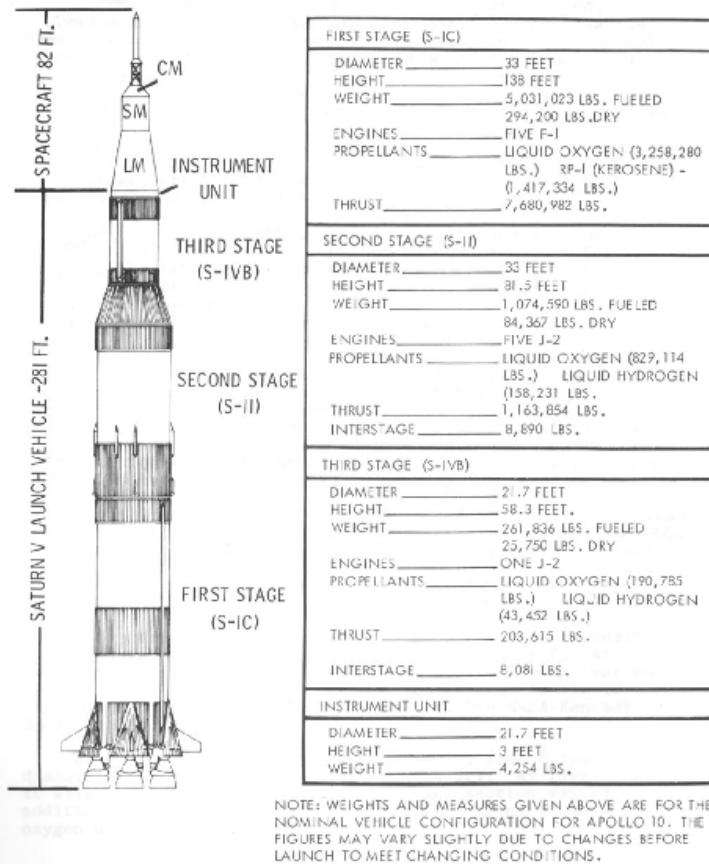
Apollo CSM and LEM
From the Apollo 10 Presskit
Courtesy of NASA



Astronaut Edwin
"Buzz" Aldrin Jr.,
Apollo 11 LEM Pilot,
July 21, 1969
Courtesy of NASA

A Brief History of the U.S. Manned Space Flight Program – 1961 through 1972

- Apollo Program**



Apollo / Saturn V Launch Vehicle
Courtesy of NASA



Apollo / Saturn V Launch Vehicle
Apollo 11, July 16, 1969
Courtesy of NASA

Data Supporting the Historical Facts of the Six Moon Landings

- Moon rocks (Reynolds, 2002)
- Photography – Photos and film (Reynolds, 2002)
- Recorded and Transcribed conversations
- Personal accounts (Bean and Chaikin, 1998)
- Data returned from scientific experiments left on the Moon (Beattie, 2001)
- Basic principles of physics, engineering, and other areas of science and applied science (Plaitt, 2002)
- The massive preparation, engineering, and coordination between people, contractors, NASA employees, and astronauts (Reynolds, 2002)
- \$30 billion spent to send man to the moon (Reynolds, 2002)
- Common Sense and ***Occam's Razor***



Astronaut Edwin
"Buzz" Aldrin Jr.,
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July 21, 1969
Courtesy of NASA

OCCAM'S RAZOR

The 14th century monk-philosopher William of Occam encouraged us to choose the **simplest** model from a set of otherwise equivalent models for a given problem.

Source:
http://www.mantissaconsulting.com.au/occam_files/image001.gif

Data Supporting the Bases for a Hoax

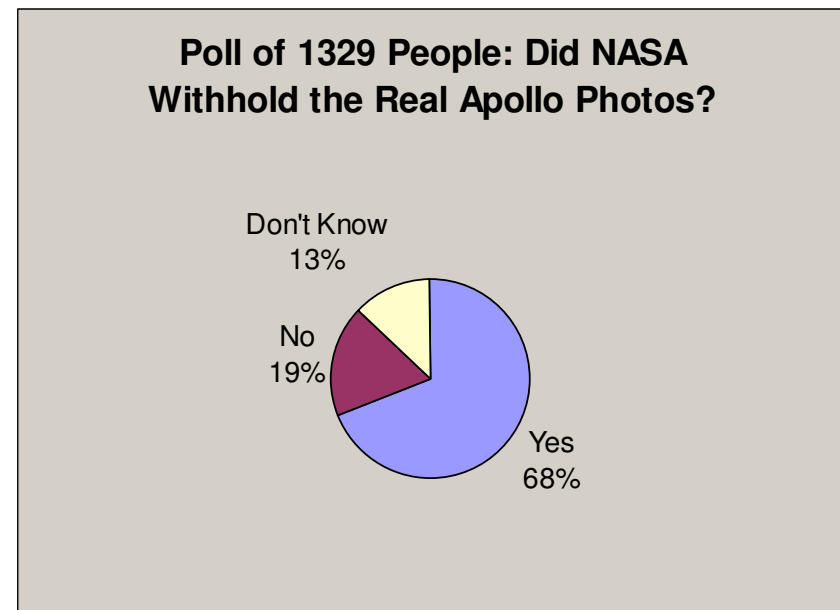
- Moon rocks (Kaysing, 1981)
- Photography – Photos and film (Lheureux, 2003)
- Personal accounts
- Astronauts misbehaving
- The secretive nature of the U.S. Government and NASA (Kaysing, 1981)
- Hundreds of websites, and photos, as well as scores of books, videos, photos, etc.



In 2002, Apollo 11 Astronaut Buzz Aldrin smacks an ambush reporter who calls him "a coward, a liar and a thief." Source: <http://www.csicop.org/articles/20021018-aldrin/anim.gif>

Data Supporting the Bases for a Hoax

- People are more cynical now
- Lots of people don't believe that we went to the moon.



(Lheureux, 2003)

How Do Experts Dispute the Data that Support the Hoax Assertions?

- There are five most hotly contested areas that the hoax conspiracy theorists use to support their claims:

Area	Hoax Conspiracy Theorists' View	Lunar Landing Supporters' View
Absence of stars in lunar photos	There should have been stars, and the absence of stars proves the hoax.	The brightness of the lunar surface would have naturally obscured the visibility of the stars.
Survival through radiation in space	Radiation from the Van Allen Radiation belts should have killed the astronauts.	The shielding of the Apollo space craft as well as their space suits protected the astronauts for the brief duration as they traveled through the radiation belts going to and from the Moon.
Dust under the lunar lander	The Lunar Lander should have blown away all the dust..	The nature of lunar dust in a vacuum cannot be compared to the behavior of dust in an environment where there is an atmosphere.
High lunar surface temperatures	Astronauts could not have survived such high temperatures as exist on the lunar surface.	The temperatures were only 120 C. in the sunlight and -120 C in the shadows. The astronauts space suits were engineered to protect them well, and they did.
The play of the light and shadows in the lunar surface photos	Repeated anomalies, such as reflections, shadows, angles of shadows, and various degrees of brightness prove all this was staged.	Each of these anomalies can be explained by considering the nature and physics of light, especially as it applies to photography.

(Plaitt, 2002)

How Do Experts Dispute the Data that Support the Hoax Assertions?

- One final area that is extremely problematic for hoax conspiracy theorists is that of ***keeping secrets***: It is practically impossible to have the tens of thousands of people that worked on the Apollo Space Flight Program between 1965 and 1973, conspire together to keep such a hoax a secret. (Plaitt, 2002)
- Again, ***Occam's Razor*** applies.

OCCAM'S RAZOR

The 14th century monk-philosopher William of Occam encouraged us to choose the **simplest** model from a set of otherwise equivalent models for a given problem.

Source:
http://www.mantissaconsulting.com.au/occam_files/image001.gif

Looking Back to Apollo – Dreams of a Future in Space and on the Moon Exploration Delayed Going Forward into the 21st Century

- To date, winning the race to the Moon, and going there five additional times was perhaps the most magnificent achievement of teamwork in human history.
- After the Apollo program ended, about 95% of the workforce who participated was laid off.
- Those who witnessed and/or participated in the achievements of Apollo, expected to be on the Moon, in an established colony by 2001. (Garber, 2001)
- The Chinese, with their aggressive manned space program hope to travel to the moon by 2011.
- The U.S. has stated intentions of returning to the Moon by 2014, laying the foundations for a permanent lunar colony, as a planned staging point to travel to Mars by 2030 (Schmitt, 2006)
- Around 2030, the first astronaut on Mars could be a woman. Hopefully, it will be an American woman.

(Possible radio conversation in 2030)

“Houston. Mars Base One here. I’m about to step off the Mars Lander’s ladder at this historic moment.”

“Roger, Rita, we copy you!”

“OK! That’s one small step for a woman. One giant leap for Humankind.”



[See Notes View for more information]

What Is “Primitivism?”

- “Primitivism is the pursuit of ways of life running counter to the development of technology, its alienating antecedents, and the ensemble of changes wrought by both.
- “Technology is here defined as tool use based upon division of labor...
- “Perhaps the easiest way to understand primitivism is as a counterweight to the pull of technology (Fliss, 2002). “



(Filiss, 2002)

An Anecdotal Story on *Primitivism* – Easter Island Legends - A People That Descended Into *Primitivism* and Forgot the Greatness Their History and Culture.

- Easter Island is one of the remotest places on Earth.
- “The Dutch Admiral Roggeveen, onboard the *Arena*, was the first European to visit the island on Easter Sunday 1722.
- “He found a society in a primitive state with about 3,000 people living in squalid reed huts or caves, engaged in almost perpetual warfare and resorting to cannibalism in a desperate attempt to supplement the meager food supplies available on the island (Ponting, 2002).”
- 95% deforested, and almost devoid of useful vegetation.
- Over 900 beautiful massive, mysterious statues were also discovered.
- Indigenous people explained that these statues were magic, and that they walked themselves over to the location where they were found.
- But six generations prior, the indigenous people had possessed the know how to create and transport these massive statues over to the location where they were found.
- Today, these statues look out mysteriously over the ocean from the cliffs at the shores of Easter Island.
- It was through a decent into *primitivism* that the people embraced ignorance, superstition, legend, cannibalism, a loss of self-respect for their culture and abilities, and an attitude of mismanagement of their habitat.

(Ponting, 2002)



*All photos on this page are
courtesy of Noe Zamel.
Copyright Noe Zamel*

Conclusion

- The Moon landings that occurred between July 1969 and December 1972 are still the subject of much controversy, over 35 years after the fact.
- The abundance of information, especially in the age of the Internet, makes it difficult to sort out the fact from fiction.
- Skeptics should be careful not to lead us into ***primitivism*** for its own sake.
- This controversy may be a case where the wisdom of ***Occam's Razor*** really applies.
 - Occam's Razor says that when there are two explanations for an event or situation, the one that is the simplest and easiest to grasp is usually the one that is true.

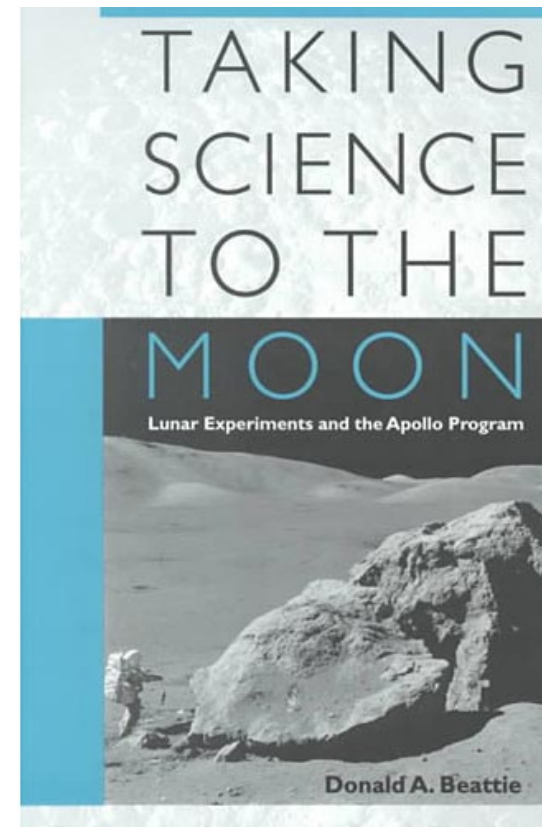
OCCAM'S RAZOR

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Source:
http://www.mantissaconsulting.com.au/occam_files/image001.gif

Parting Statement from a Participant / Witness

- “Conceived primarily as a political statement, Apollo achieved much more than its original goal. Now when faced with seemingly intractable problems, someone will be heard to say, “If we can land a man on the Moon, why can’t we [fill in the appropriate objective]?” And of course that is the right question to ask, **because people of goodwill, working together, are capable of solving very difficult problems. Apollo proved it. Let’s not forget that dreaming big has its rewards, even if occasionally we stub our toe.** That is the essential lesson I carried away from my Apollo days, and I hope it will be remembered by those who study and follow our example in the future (Beattie, 2001).”



(Beattie, 2002)



Apollo 13 Splashdown, April 17, 1970
Photo courtesy of NASA

**That's one small presentation for an IDCP Student,
One giant leap for William Slater's IDCP Program indoctrination.**

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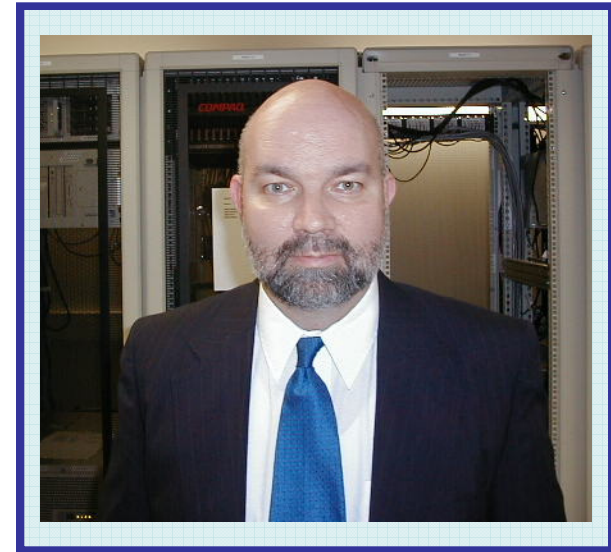
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Questions?



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