




RIDDLES

Match each water word with the riddle it answers.

(Answers on page 2.)

snow	a puddle	rain	a flood	a wave
agua	a cloud	ice	a river	an ocean

- Where can you find two banks, a bed, a current, and a mouth? _____
- I'm not around for long, but while I am, you can see your face in me. What am I? _____
- People know me by five different names: Indian, Pacific, Arctic, Southern, and Atlantic. What am I? _____
- I come down in flakes on land, seas, and lakes. What am I? _____
- I always fall and never get up. Deserts don't see much of me, but jungles see a lot. What am I? _____
- In Spanish, I mean water. What am I? _____
- I am too much of a good thing. What am I? _____ 
- Glaciers are made of me. What am I? _____
- Surfers love to ride me. What am I? _____
- I am wet, and I float, but not on water. What am I? _____



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Water on the Moon?

By Ron Fridell



The white capsule crashed into the Moon's surface, while the blue craft recorded information on the impact.

On October 9, 2009, a U.S. rocket sent two tons of metal hurtling toward a crater near the Moon's south pole. Bull's-eye! Tons of Moon dust exploded. Scientists were watching. They were looking for signs of water, and they found them. The blast proved that there really is water on the Moon.



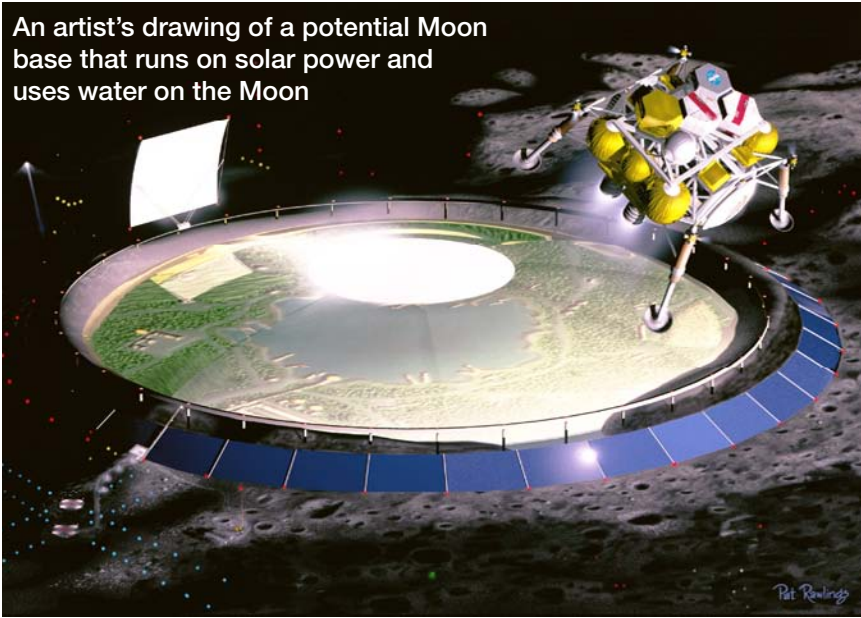
But Moon water is not like the water on Earth. One scientist explained the difference this way: "When we say 'water on the Moon,' we are not talking about lakes, oceans, or even puddles." The Moon water is just a thin coating stuck to the Moon's surface. If you gathered all the water from an area the size of a baseball field, you might get a glassful.

See Water on page 2

Water

Continued from page 1

An artist's drawing of a potential Moon base that runs on solar power and uses water on the Moon



© NASA

So what's the big deal? The U.S. wants to build a colony on the Moon. Scientists would live there all year long. This colony would cost a lot of money to build. And one of the biggest costs would be water. It is heavy and costly

to bring water from Earth to the Moon. But what if the people living there could use Moon water instead? Then the Moon colony would stand a far better chance of someday being built.

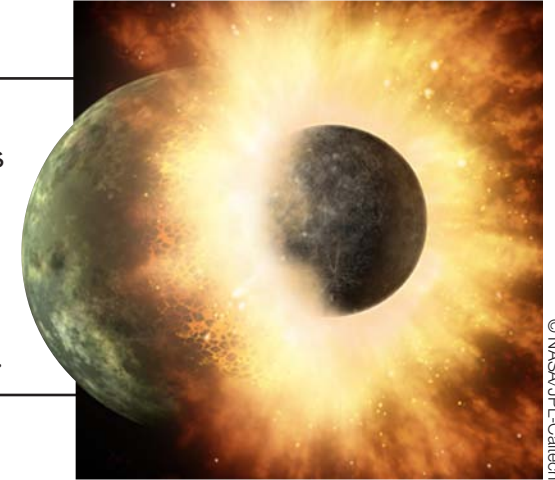
WOWSER!

How much would it cost to transport just one pound of water (about half a liter, or two cups) from Earth to the Moon? About \$100,000!



Do You Know?

Scientists believe that the Moon was created billions of years ago when a heavenly body the size of Mars crashed into Earth.



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WHERE DID ALL THAT WATER COME FROM?

There is no weather on the Moon. Why? Because it has no air. No rain or snow ever falls on the Moon. Then how did all that water get there? We're not sure. It might have come from atoms shot at high speed through space by the Sun. When those atoms smashed into the Moon, they may have combined with atoms on the Moon's surface to create water.

Write About This!

The Moon revolves around the Earth while the Earth spins on its axis. Think of other things that revolve and spin. Make a list. Then use your list to write a poem about things that go round and round.

