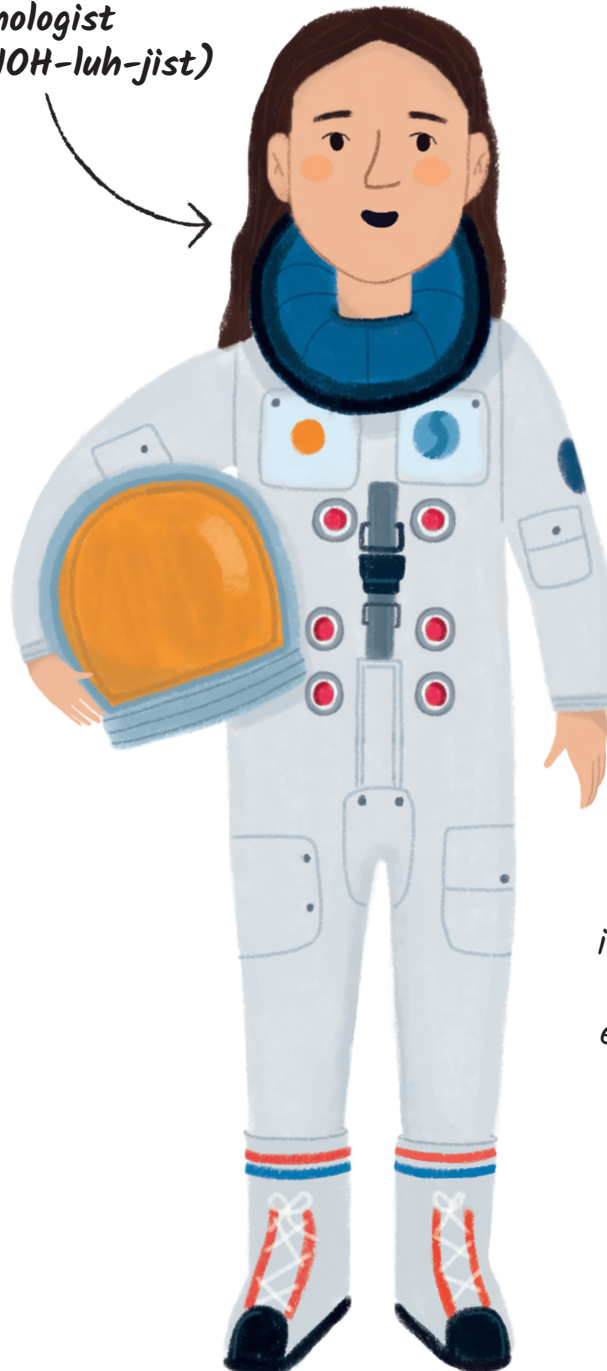


WHAT DO SELENOLOGISTS DO?

Selenologists study Earth's Moon. They look at everything about the Moon, from its history, composition, and physical features to its movements and its impact on future space exploration.

*Selenologist
(see-luh-NOH-luh-jist)*



*Selenologists don't always wear an astronaut suit, they are often discovering information about the moon from a laboratory using equipment like **microscopes** and **telescopes**.*

WHAT DO SELENOLOGISTS DO?

A selenologist's work is really interesting because there is always a chance of making new discoveries.

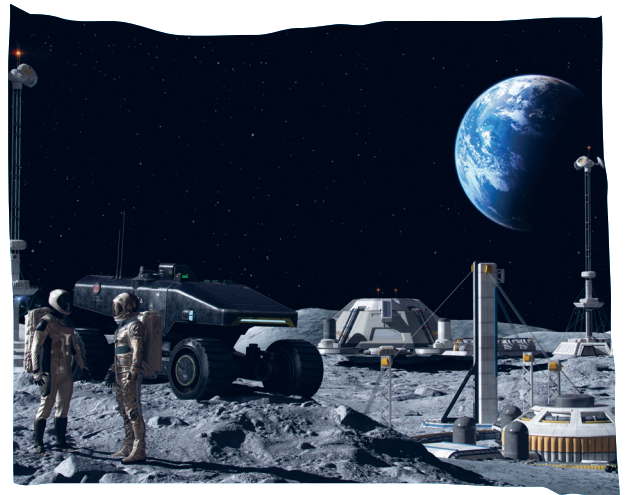


LAB WORK

The main part of a selenologist's work is done in the lab. They spend their time doing experiments on samples that have been brought back from the Moon, using clever machines like microscopes. They also spend time studying data that has been gathered by telescopes or by tools left on the Moon by astronauts, and help design new experiments and machines for future Moon visits.

OUT IN SPACE

Sometimes, selenologists (and other space scientists) go into outer space! The International Space Station, which floats in Earth's orbit, is a place scientists go to carry out experiments in low gravity. They learn more about space there than they could from Earth. Once there's a space base on the Moon, it's likely selenologists will travel there to do research and experiments from the Moon's surface!



WHO DO SELENOLOGISTS WORK FOR?

Most selenologists work for space agencies - which can be national or international - or universities.

Space agencies are usually run by a company or the government of a country. The selenologists who work for space agencies usually focus on special tasks and projects. Sometimes, projects can be huge and last a long time! They can also require selenologists to work with different scientists and engineers to get the project done.

Like most other fields of science, some astrobiologists teach students at universities alongside taking part in research.

No matter who selenologists work for, their work is really important: they have the opportunity to make a huge difference, not just in science but for the future of humanity.

FAMOUS DISCOVERIES

Selenologists have made so many amazing discoveries that have changed our understanding of the Moon. Here's just a few of the biggest and best!

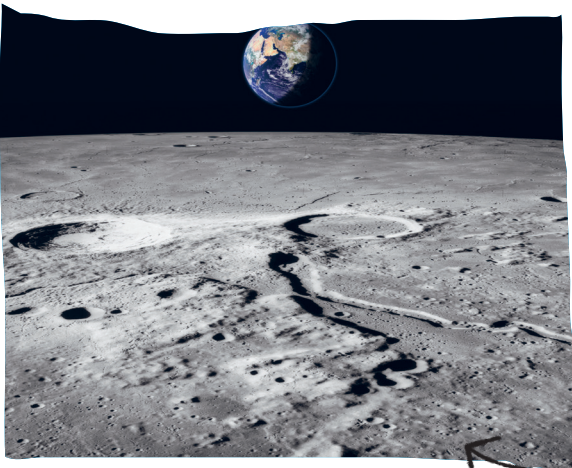


EXTREME TEMPERATURES

The temperature on the Moon varies dramatically. When it's in full Sun, it can reach 127°C (260°F) and when it's in full darkness, it can drop to -173°C (-280°F). Some places on the Moon can get even hotter and colder than this!

EARTH'S TIDES

Thanks to Isaac Newton's discovery of gravity, we know that the Moon is the reason that Earth's oceans experience high and low tides. Without it, the oceans wouldn't act the same!



DRIFTING MOON

Thanks to scientific devices placed on the Moon, we know that it's gradually moving away from the Earth by almost 4 cm (1.6 inches) per year. But don't worry – it will be billions of years before Earth will feel the effects of this.

Selenologists are making discoveries all the time, who knows what they might discover next!

FAMOUS SELENOLOGISTS

There have been so many clever selenologists over the years.
Here's just a few of the most famous.



JOHANNES HEVELIUS

Johannes Hevelius created the first book of lunar maps and diagrams. He documented all the craters, slopes, and valleys on the Moon that he could see with his telescope!

GERARD KUIPER

An astronomer, Gerard Kuiper predicted and discovered many amazing things within our solar system, including what the surface of the Moon would be like (long before astronauts visited the Moon!). Moon craters, an asteroid belt, and an observatory have been named after him.



WILLIAM K. HARTMANN

William K. Hartmann, who worked with Kuiper as a graduate, created a system for working out the age of craters on the Moon's surface. The system was confirmed as accurate by testing samples from the craters. This has changed our understanding of the Moon's history.



These are just a few of the many selenologists who have made a huge difference to the science.