

On the Moon

Everyone has probably heard of “the man on the moon” or heard that the moon looks like Swiss cheese; but both these descriptions came from people looking at the moon from Earth. But, what is the moon actually like?

There is little gravity on the moon. Objects take longer to drop than on the earth because the pull of gravity on the moon is only 1/6th as much as it is on earth. But, since there is no air on the moon, a



feather will fall just as fast as a hammer! In fact, the astronauts tested that out in 1968 when they landed on the moon.

The moon is made up of different types of landscapes; just like there are different landscapes on Earth. The moon’s landscapes are called the Highlands and the Maria.

The Maria landscape only covers about 20% of the moon’s surface. This area was formed by lava flows millions of years ago. The dark areas you see when

you look at the moon from Earth are the Maria areas. The rocks here are mostly basalt, a type of volcanic rock.

The Highlands cover about 80% of the Moon’s surface. This area is covered with both large and small crater areas formed by meteorites hitting the moon. The rocks here are not basalt like in the Maria region. They are a type of rock called **anorthosite** (uh-nor-throw-site), a type of calcium rock. When you look at the moon from Earth, these are the places on the moon that look white.

The surface of the moon, mostly in the Highlands area, is covered in a powdery, rocky soil with dust and globules. This is called the **Regolith** (reg –uh-lith) If astronauts breathe in this Regolith once back on Earth, they can become very sick.

What else might be on the Moon? Well, that is a question waiting to be answered by a future astronaut, maybe even you. Until then, it is up to your imagination!

