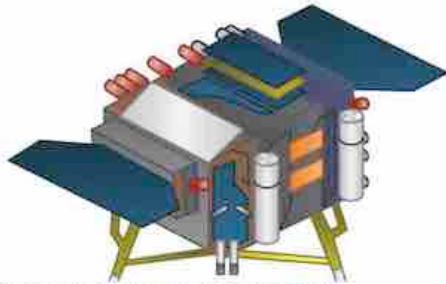


China first to land on dark side of the moon

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Loren Roberts for The Planetary Society

China has become the first nation ever to successfully land a spacecraft on the far side of the moon. The official China Central Television station

announced that the lunar explorer spaceship, Chang'e 4, touched down at 10:26am on Thursday. Professor Zhu Menghua, from Macau University of Science and Technology, said the success of the mission was a major milestone for China and established the nation as a pioneer in space exploration. He told the New York Times: "We Chinese people have done something that the Americans have not dared try." Sun Zezhou, chief designer of Chang'e-4, said: "Landing on the far side of the moon is more risky than landing on the near side."

The Chang'e-4 probe started sending photographs back to Earth soon after it landed on the moon's surface. The China National Space Administration said the mission had, "lifted the mysterious veil" from the far side of the moon and "opened a new chapter in human lunar exploration". Sun Zezhou told reporters about the significance of the program. He said it would, "help lay the foundation for future space exploration." He added: "A high-precision landing is a necessity for further exploring the moon and asteroids. We hope to be able to reach the whole moon and even the whole solar system." China also has plans to launch a returnable spacecraft (Chang'e 5) by 2020.

Sources: scmp.com / xinhuanet.com / foxnews.com

Writing

Space exploration is humankind's most important pursuit. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

nation / spacecraft / official / lunar / success / mission / exploration / something / risky / photographs / mysterious / veil / space / human / precision / asteroids / solar system

True / False

- a) An official China TV station announced the news of the moon landing. T / F
- b) The spacecraft landed on the moon on Thursday night. T / F
- c) A professor said China was now a pioneer in space exploration. T / F
- d) Landing on the near side of the moon is easier than the far side. T / F
- e) The spacecraft took over 24 hours to send photos back to Earth. T / F
- f) The spacecraft put a veil on the far side of the moon. T / F
- g) A designer said this program would help to explore asteroids. T / F
- h) China wants to make a returnable spacecraft by 2030. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. land | a. landmark |
| 2. announced | b. hazardous |
| 3. milestone | c. puzzling |
| 4. pioneer | d. basis |
| 5. risky | e. declared |
| 6. mission | f. period |
| 7. mysterious | g. touch down |
| 8. chapter | h. entire |
| 9. foundation | i. innovator |
| 10. whole | j. expedition |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the moon?
- b) Why has no country landed on the far side of the moon before?
- c) What do you think is on the far side of the moon?
- d) How big an achievement is this?
- e) Is China now leading the space race?
- f) What would you do if you went to the moon?
- g) Should the USA now try to go to the far side of the moon?
- h) What do you think of a China flag being on the far side of the moon?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. the lunar explorer | a. in space exploration |
| 2. the mission was a major | b. asteroids |
| 3. established the nation as a pioneer | c. a returnable spacecraft |
| 4. something that the Americans have | d. milestone for China |
| 5. Landing on the far side of the moon | e. the whole moon |
| 6. soon after it landed | f. not dared try |
| 7. A high- | g. spaceship |
| 8. exploring the moon and | h. precision landing |
| 9. We hope to be able to reach | i. is more risky |
| 10. China also has plans to launch | j. on the moon's surface |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you want to know about the moon?
- Why are we so interested in the moon?
- Why is the far side of the moon so mysterious?
- What do you think the future of space exploration is?
- Why do we need to explore asteroids?
- What are the pros and cons of creating settlements on the moon?
- What questions would you like to ask the space program boss?

Spelling

- fueyslusccls land a spacecraft
- television station anceduonn that
- the lunar pxeolrer spaceship
- the success of the misinos
- a major onletemsi for China
- hcfie designer of Chang'e-4
- it landed on the moon's uerscaf
- lifted the ssmeitoyru veil
- told reporters about the cngecsiafiin
- A high-peciionsr landing is a necessity
- exploring the moon and saeidotsr
- culahn a returnable spacecraft

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. a	4. i	5. b
6. j	7. c	8. f	9. d	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Cities on the Moon

You think having cities on the moon is the most desirable thing about the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): space tourism, personal spacecraft or time travel.

Role B – Space Tourism

You think space tourism is the most desirable thing about the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): cities on the moon, personal spacecraft or time travel.

Role C – Personal Spacecraft

You think owning personal spacecraft is the most desirable thing about the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): space tourism, cities on the moon or time travel.

Role D – Time Travel

You think time travel is the most desirable thing about the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): space tourism, personal spacecraft or cities on the moon.

Speaking – The Future

Rank these with your partner. Put the most desirable things about the future at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • cities on the moon | • personal spacecraft |
| • space tourism | • 100% solar power |
| • minerals from Mars | • time travel |
| • travel to Mars | • exploring black holes |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.