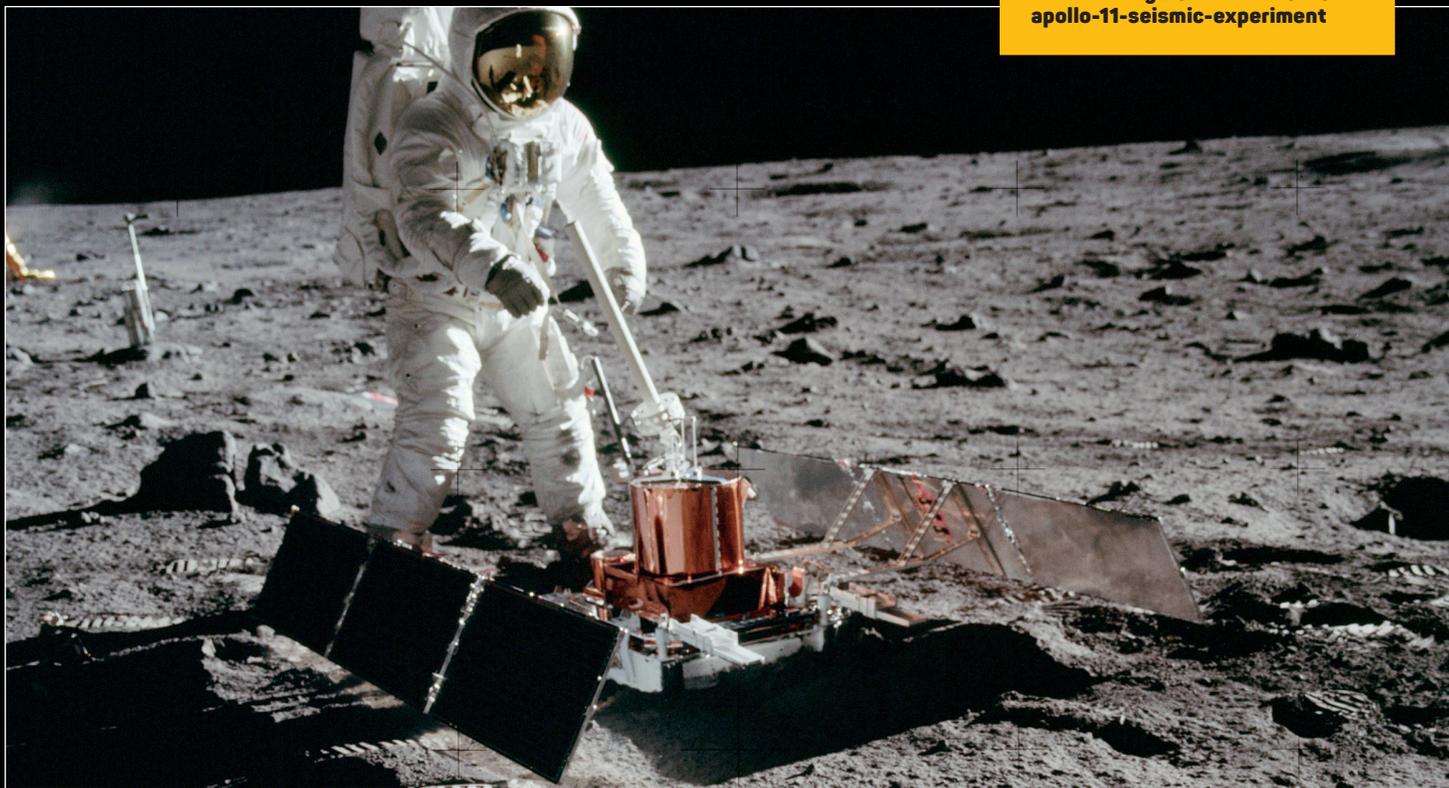


Seismographs on The Moon

NASA's Apollo missions left behind instruments on the Moon to record moonquakes.

LEARN MORE:
moon.nasa.gov/resources/13/apollo-11-seismic-experiment



Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin next to a seismometer on the Moon.

Earth has earthquakes, and the Moon has moonquakes. Scientists first discovered this ground-shaking surprise thanks to NASA's Apollo missions to the Moon. Several Apollo missions carried seismometers that astronauts left behind on the Moon's surface. These instruments, each about the size of a laundry basket, measured how seismic waves moved through the Moon.

They also functioned as a network to detect and locate moonquakes. In total, these seismometers detected over 12,000 moonquakes, some as strong as magnitude 5—powerful enough to damage buildings and other structures.

Because of these seismometers, scientists now know more about the Moon's interior structure, where moonquakes tend to occur, and how frequently they shake the Moon. When humans return to the Moon, this information will be useful for designing moonquake-resistant buildings.



This ridge, about 20 meters high, was formed as the Moon's surface shifted.