

# EXPLORING THE SOLAR SYSTEM

## Story Blocks

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### Try this!



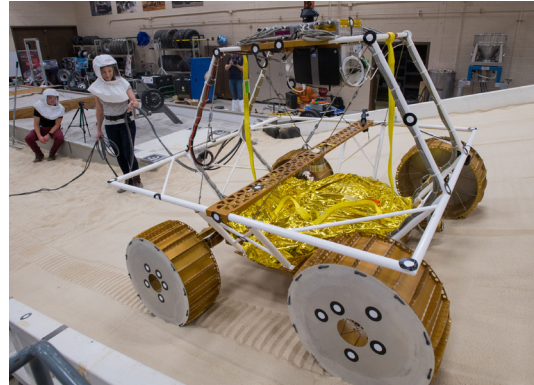
**Use the blocks to tell a creative story** about exploring the Moon. *What questions do you have about the Moon? How does your story start? Who is part of your story?*

**Think about what science tools you'll need** to explore the Moon. *What will you discover? How does your story end?*

**Is something missing?** Draw your own object onto one of the foam blocks to add into your story.

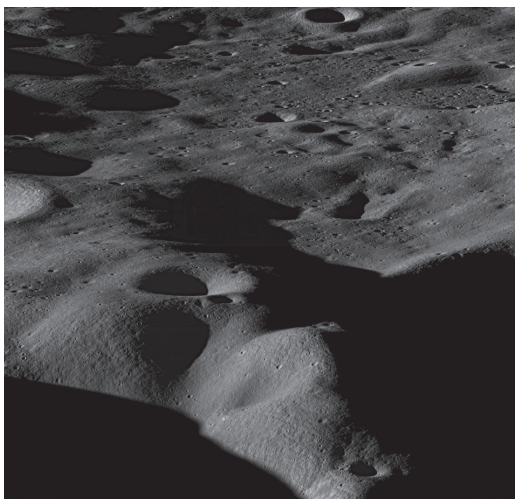
*We imagine and tell stories—with images, characters, and emotions—to communicate our ideas and dreams.*

**Just like you, artists, scientists, and engineers use their creativity and imagination to tell stories about space missions that might happen in the future.** Imagining the next mission to the Moon is an important step in actually making it happen. The spark of a new idea or an exciting story that seems like a dream today may become possible because of science. When you create your Moon exploration story, you're starting on your own scientific journey!



**A lunar rover being tested at NASA's Glenn Research Center in Ohio.**

As children, many scientists, engineers, and astronauts started off by imagining new worlds or dreaming about space travel. By telling stories about their own fantastical space adventures, these explorers were laying the groundwork for their own future science journeys. Opening our minds to seemingly impossible ideas through creativity and imagination gives us the motivation to move forward into the unknown.



**The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter took this image of the north rim of Cabeus crater near the Moon's south pole.**

**Future NASA missions will continue to explore the Moon in preparation for the return of humans to its surface.** Starting with the rock and dust samples collected by Apollo astronauts, exploring the Moon has changed our ideas about the Earth and our Solar System. Today, NASA scientists are using advanced cameras onboard the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter to take a closer look at deep, dark craters on the Moon that contain water ice. Future NASA missions will use new rovers to explore even more of the lunar surface and establish a permanent human presence as a first step toward Mars and beyond.