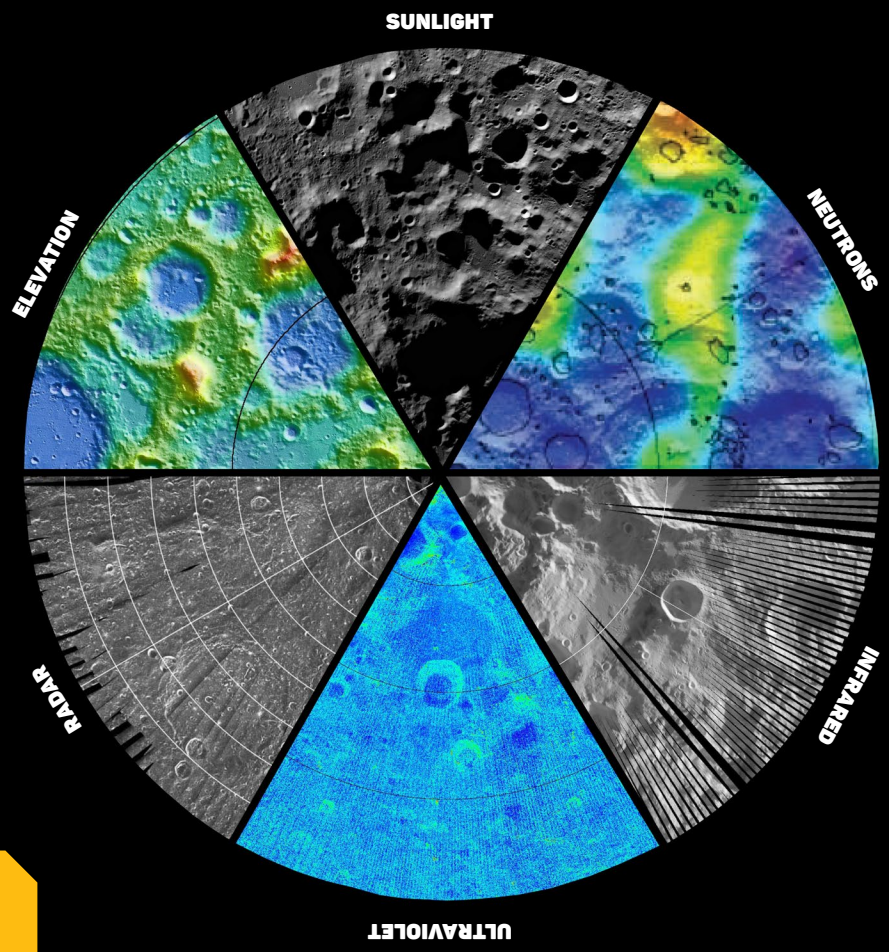
Lunar Discovery

NASA uses many tools and technologies to learn more about the Moon.



These images of the south pole of the Moon were captured using a variety of different scientific instruments.

LEARN MORE: lunar.gsfc.nasa.gov/moonartgallery.html

Multiple tools on the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) provide new ways to observe the Moon. These tools detect different types of energy and particles coming from the Moon. Reflected sunlight provides the daytime view of the Moon's south pole. Cosmic rays from outside the solar system hit the lunar surface and produce neutrons, helping us understand the soil composition. Infrared reveals the cold (white) and coldest (dark) areas of the Moon's south pole. Ultraviolet light coming from far-away stars reflects and provides information about the presence of water on the Moon. The *laser altimeter* on the Orbiter looks for ice and maps the overall elevation of the Moon's surface. Using these tools to find potential sources of water or illuminated locations for solar panels will help NASA prepare future missions to our closest neighbor in the solar system.