

Question 1 What Equipment did scientists use to discover water on the moon?

Water on the Moon

Adapted from the New York Times, by Kenneth Chang

The Moon is a Desert

(1) Scientists have known for a long time that the moon is a desert, because it has no atmosphere like we have on Earth. However, they used to believe that there was no **water** on the moon. Now they know this is not true. Scientists have found evidence that water can be found deep within the moon's polar craters. These craters are dark places where the sun never shines.

(2) NASA sent a small machine called a lunar orbiter to investigate. This lunar orbiter will land at the moon's South Pole and look for ice deposits in a large polar crater. These ice deposits are very small. Scientists said that one ton of the top layer of the moon's surface would hold in total about 32 ounces of water. That's just like four glasses of water – about what one person might drink in a day!

(3) That means the moon is still drier than the driest desert on earth. The water they found is microscopic, meaning you wouldn't be able to see it if you were looking straight at it! You'd need a scientific tool called a microscope to look really closely.