Question 1 relates to this text that students have read

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.

Question 2 relates to this text that students have read

Water on the Moon

Adapted from the New York Times, by Kenneth Chang

Water is a Valuable Resource

(4) Water on the moon would be a valuable - or very important - resource. It could be useful in lots of ways. For example, future astronauts could drink this water. Water is heavy. It takes up a lot of room on a spacecraft. Having water available on the moon would mean more room on the spacecraft for people and things.

(5) Moon water could be useful in other ways. Water can be broken down into two parts: hydrogen and oxygen. Astronauts could breathe the oxygen. Oxygen and hydrogen could also be used as rocket fuel. Rocket fuel helps spacecrafts to move, just like gas helps cars to move. Imagine! The moon could serve as a stop for spacecrafts to refill their gas tanks before heading out into the solar system.

(6) To use the moon water, scientists need to come up with a plan for extracting – or getting it out of – the polar craters. Making this plan will take a lot of time and money. They would need to study the moon's surface and build new equipment. Do you think it would be a good investment? You decide!

The Lunar Orbiter was used to discover water in the form of *microscopic ice* on the moon.

1. What are the ***two most important words*** to hear in student responses?

equipment	discover	water
Lunar Orbiter	investigate	ice

The Lunar Orbiter was used to discover water in the form of *microscopic ice* on the moon.

Why are these words ***leading students to a misunderstanding of the text***?

microscope *look* *water*