

Name _____

The Moon's Pockmarked Past: Why Does Our Moon Have Craters?

Open-Ended Response Questions

1. Lunar craters are described as "time capsules" of the Moon's history. Explain how studying the size, distribution, and ages of lunar craters can provide insights into the history of both the Moon and our solar system.
2. In addition to lunar craters, the Moon's surface also contains other features like maria (large, dark plains) and highlands (mountainous regions). Discuss how these surface features interact with craters and contribute to our understanding of lunar geology.
3. Consider the role of lunar craters in shaping the field of planetary science. How have lunar missions, such as the Apollo program, enhanced our knowledge of lunar craters and their significance?
4. While the Moon's lack of atmosphere makes it vulnerable to cosmic collisions, it also preserves impact features remarkably well. Compare the preservation of lunar craters to similar features on Earth and explain the key differences.

