GENERATING AN ARGUMENT: The MOON ROCKS?

Between 1969 and 1972, the Apollo missions to the moon returned to Earth with pieces of the moon’s surface. Space scientists eagerly tested these samples. They wanted to learn what the moon was made of. They found that the moon’s surface was made of material similar to the material that makes up Earth. But is this material really “rock”?

THE BIG QUESTION: Is LUNAR material really “rock”?

With your group, use the suggested resources to develop a claim that can be used to answer this simple, but important, question. Make sure you have good evidence and reasoning to support your claim. You can record any observations or notes you make on the shared workspace in your one drive.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES: Generating your argument
Read about the moon samples brought back by the Apollo astronauts and what tests scientists have done on them:

http://curator.jsc.nasa.gov/Lunar/index.cfm
http://www.lpi.usra.edu/lunar/missions/apollo/apollo_11/samples/
https://airandspace.si.edu/exhibitions/apollo-to-the-moon/online/science/lunar-rocks.cfm
http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/earth/earth_timeline/moon_formed

Questions to think about:

What are some of the characteristics of moon material?
How do we think moon material formed?
What does it have in common with rocks here on Earth?
In what ways is it UNLIKE rocks here on Earth?

Discover what rocks are and how rocks are formed here on Earth:

http://www.learner.org/interactives/rockcycle/types.html
https://nasaecips.arc.nasa.gov/video/ourworld/our-world-the-rock-cycle

Questions to think about:

How do scientists decide if something IS a rock?
(hint: It has to do with minerals.)
How do rocks form?
How are rocks classified?
Check your work with the following rubric…remember to make improvements before we share:

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**SHARE YOUR IDEAS: Making an informational poster to share**

Once your group has developed an explanation that answers this question, prepare a poster that you can use to share and justify your ideas. Your poster should include the following information:

**THE BIG QUESTION**

**YOUR CLAIM**

**EVIDENCE THAT SUPPORTS YOUR CLAIM**

**REASONING**

**WORKS CITED**

To share our work with others, we will be ROUND ROBIN SHARING with our posters. This means that each member of the group must have a role in sharing your groups’ ideas. Remember, as you critique the work of others, you have to decide whether their conclusions are valid or acceptable based on quality of their explanation and how well they are able to support their ideas. In other words, you need to determine if their argument is persuasive and convincing.
Feedback Form: Is lunar material really “rock”?

Group Members: __________________________ _______________________

Claim:
______________________________________________________________

Did their claim answer the BIG question?
(circle one) 1 (no)---2 (sort of)---3 (oh, yeah!)

Evidence:
______________________________________________________________

Did the evidence support the claim?
(circle one) 1 (no)---2 (sort of)---3 (oh, yeah!)

How was their argument persuasive and convincing?
______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Student providing feedback: _____________________________