

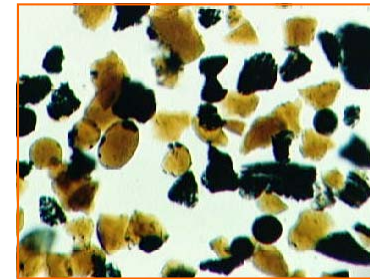
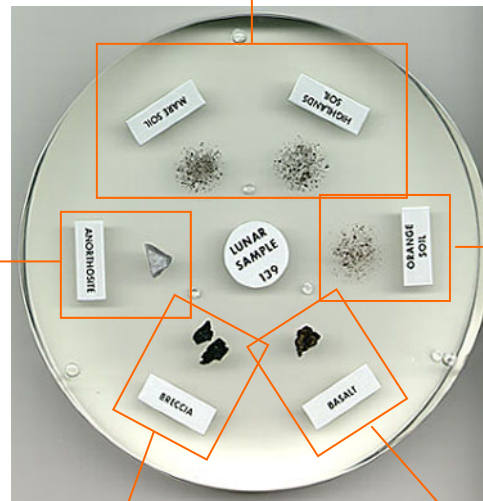
SNAPSHOTS OF DISTANT TIME

LUNAR SAMPLE DISK TALKING POINTS

Regolith (or more simply, "Soil"): Asteroids and comets bombarded the Moon over its 4.5-billion-year timespan. The impacts ground the rocks and crust into finer and finer pieces. The *Growing Up Moon* station, *The Footsteps of Explorers* modeled how ongoing impacts created these lunar "soils."

Orange Soil: Orange soil crystallized when it erupted from a fire fountain 3.64 billion years ago. Relate this sample to the *Growing Up Moon* station, *Moon Ooze*, which modeled volcanism and basin filling on the Moon during its "teen" years.

Anorthosite: A mineral called anorthosite floated to the top of the magma ocean and cooled to form the Moon's crust. Minerals that sank in the magma ocean came to the surface later through volcanic activity. Relate this sample to the *Growing Up Moon* station, *Moon Mix!*, which modeled the formation of this most ancient of lunar rocks during the Moon's "infancy."



Breccia: The most violent impacts in the Moon's history occurred up until about 3.8-3.9 billion years ago. Large asteroids or comets collided and formed the largest features on the Moon, the impact basins. Breccias are broken pieces of rock melded together through the heat and pressure of an impact. Relate this sample to the *Growing Up Moon* stations, *Splat!* and *Impact Paintings*, which explored ongoing impacts on the Moon.

Basalt: Magma seeped through the fissures left by the impacts that formed the largest basins. The magma cooled to form a type of mineral called basalt. Relate this sample to the *Growing Up Moon* station, *Moon Ooze*, which modeled volcanism and basin filling on the Moon during its "teen" years.