

INST 154

Apollo at 50

Discussion Questions

Session 18: Apollo 11: Lunar Landing

1. The Apollo 11 astronauts did several kinds of things during their single 2.5 hour moonwalk, including collecting samples, taking photographs, conducting rocks, setting up experiments that would be left behind, conducting ceremonial activities, and practicing tasks that they or others would later need to do on the lunar surface. Given that the duration of the moonwalk was limited, what process should they have used for allocating time to these different types of activities? Now actually use the process that you have devised to actually allocate time to each of those types of tasks. Which one did you give the most time to. Why?
2. NASA went to great lengths to get television from the Moon, but there had been considerable debate within NASA about the value of doing this. What were the benefits of having television during the Apollo 11 moonwalk? What were the costs? In retrospect, was it a good decision? If so, why would it have been a controversial decision at the time?