HONR269i
To the Moon and Back: The Apollo Program
Discussion Questions
Session 26: Apollo 17: A Geologist on the Moon

1. The Apollo lunar landing missions are an excellent example of the way in which NASA learned from one mission to the next, despite different people flying each of the missions. Describe as many of the things that NASA learned to do on earlier missions that actually did make a difference on later missions.

2. Now let's think about how that learning occurred. What methods did NASA use to maximize the rate at which they could learn? What methods did they use to optimize the knowledge transfer to subsequent crews? What other ways (i.e., other than knowledge transfer from one crew to another) did NASA use to maximize their ability to capitalize on what was learned?

3. As the first scientist-astronaut to fly, Jack Schmitt had many of the same challenges as do other pioneers in the workplace. What specifically did he do to succeed despite these challenges? What else could or should he done?