

Walkin' on the Moon: Initial Letter

KARDASSIA-USA

RESORTS OF THE FUTURE

February 1, 2005

Dear Professors _____,

My name is David Smith, and I am the president of a company that has been consulting with the United States government to develop "lunar tourism," which means setting up hotels and resorts on the moon. This project would allow everyday people to travel to the moon for an extraordinary vacation, to go where only astronauts had been before.

Unfortunately, several members of the U.S. Congress are threatening to end all future government funding for lunar tourism. These congressmen and congresswomen do not believe that it is possible to travel to the moon, and they even believe that the famous moon landing of 1969 was a hoax! I have included a copy of the letter that they sent me, which lists the reasons that they believe the moon landing never happened.

I need your help. Since you are all prominent physical scientists, I would like you to testify before a Congressional committee on my behalf. You must convince these members of Congress that the moon landing was not a hoax, and that they should keep funding companies like mine so we can make the moon a popular vacation spot.

Thank you very much for your help, I will lose my company and my life's work unless you can convince them.

Sincerely,

David Smith
President and CEO, Kardassia-USA

Walkin' on the Moon: Letter from Congress



109th Congress of the United States of America

January 4, 2005

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is to notify you that we are planning to argue to the U.S. Congress that all future funding for your company's development of "lunar tourism" should be used for other, more important, areas of research. We believe that the very idea of traveling to the moon for vacation is not only absurd, but impossible. You have argued that the famous "moon landing" of 1969 is proof that people can one day travel to and explore the surface of the moon. In fact, we believe that the moon walk never happened, and that it was staged using actors and special effects. Here is why:

- *The gravitational pull of the earth is too strong for a large spaceship to fly far away; any ship large enough for many people would be able to orbit the earth, not pull away completely.*
- *It would take too long to travel to the moon, because it is too far away from the earth.*
- *The video footage and pictures of astronauts on the moon must be fakes. The astronauts are shown jumping very high and leaping very far, and are moving in ways that are not possible for normal humans. They must be actors with invisible cables like in the movies, on a movie set that is made to look like the moon.*

We believe that these facts show that the moon landing never happened, and therefore you have no proof that lunar tourism is even possible. You will be allowed to argue your case before the U.S. Congress on February 7, 2005, and you may invite scientists to

Walkin' on the Moon

Bethany L. Turner & Katherine K. Shamsid-Deen

testify on your behalf. If you do not present your argument by February 7, we will assume that you have no proof to support your research and all of your future funding will be cut.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Congressional Committee on SpaceExploration

Walkin' on the Moon: Second Letter to the Professors

KARDASSIA-USA

RESORTS OF THE FUTURE

February 8, 2005

Dear Professors _____,

I am writing to give you good news. Thanks to your expert testimony and the evidence that you provided, those members of Congress who did not believe that the moon landing of 1969 really happened now know that it did, and that going to the moon is possible. As a result, Congress has decided to give me a large amount of funding so that I can continue my company's plans to develop lunar tourism. I will be able to continue my life's work, and it is because of your help!

Since you are all clearly expert scientists, I would like to continue working with you. One of the most important projects that my company is working on is the development of vehicles that can travel well on the moon. If you can design a vehicle, such as a scooter, that people can use to explore the moon's surface while on vacation, I will give you all an exclusive contract and make you famous! Please send me your designs as soon as possible, I am eager to start working on some prototypes.

Sincerely,

David Smith

President and CEO, Kardassia-USA

Walkin' on the Moon: Box Chart

<p><u>Facts</u> (What we know right now)</p>	<p><u>Questions</u> (Based on current knowledge)</p>
<p><u>Hypotheses</u> (Based on facts and questions)</p>	<p><u>Learning Issues</u> (What we need to learn)</p>

Walkin' on the Moon: Assignment

Your group is to prepare its congressional testimony. You are to prepare written statements and a poster that supports and enhances your statements. Be sure to use the information from the case. Properly cite your resources. Graphics or drawings will make the poster more interesting and visually appealing. Be creative and have fun!

Walkin' on the Moon: Case Evaluation

Date _____

Your Name _____ Group # _____

Name of Case _____

Please circle the response with which you agree the most. This evaluation will only be read by [**Teacher and/or Facilitators**], & will not be shown to other students.

a. How would you rate *your* participation in group discussion and group work?

5 Excellent **4 Very Good** **3 Good** **2 Fair** **1 Poor**

b. How would you rate *your* effort in completing the case?

5 Excellent **4 Very Good** **3 Good** **2 Fair** **1 Poor**

c. Did *you* complete the assigned homework? **Yes** **No**

If No, explain why:

d. How well did *you* work with everyone in your group?

5 Excellent **4 Very Good** **3 Good** **2 Fair** **1 Poor**

e. Overall, how would you rate *your* performance in this case?

5 Excellent **4 Very Good** **3 Good** **2 Fair** **1 Poor**

Comments (praise/criticism for other group members, your thoughts about the case):
