



From Moon Goddess to Moon Rover

Read the passage and answer the questions. (CEFR B1–B2)

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1 Old stories about the moon have not disappeared in the space age; they have been given new jobs. In July 1969, just before the Apollo 11 landing, a NASA controller jokingly asked the crew to look out for a lovely girl with a big rabbit, a clear reference to Chang'e. Astronaut Michael Collins replied that they would keep a close eye out for the bunny girl.



2 Decades later, China named its lunar exploration program after the same goddess. When the Chang'e 3 mission put a rover on the moon in December 2013, the rover's name, Yutu or Jade Rabbit, was chosen through an online public vote. Using a folk tale for a high-tech machine may look strange, but it does something useful: it connects ordinary families, who still eat mooncakes under the full moon, to an expensive national project.

3 You could call this clever national branding rather than real tradition. Still, the moon has always been shared property: the same Jade Rabbit pounds medicine in China and rice cakes in Japan and Korea, and each culture keeps adding its own version of the story.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Old moon stories have found new roles in the space age. (B) China was the first country to land on the moon.
(C) Mooncakes are popular with astronauts. (D) NASA does not believe in old stories.

2. What did a NASA controller joke about in July 1969?

- (A) A rover named Jade Rabbit (B) Mooncakes on the moon
(C) A lovely girl with a big rabbit (D) A Chinese space mission

3. How was the name of the rover chosen?

- (A) By NASA scientists (B) Through an online public vote
(C) By the Chinese emperor (D) From a famous poem

4. Why does the writer think using a folk tale for a rover is useful?

- (A) It makes the rover cheaper to build. (B) It helps scientists find the rabbit on the moon.
(C) It makes the mission safer. (D) It helps ordinary people feel connected to a national project.

5. In paragraph 3, what does shared property mean in the moon has always been shared property?

- (A) Land on the moon that people can buy (B) Something that belongs to many people and cultures
(C) A building that two countries own (D) A secret that only a few people know

6. Why does the writer say You could call this clever national branding?

- (A) To prove that the program is only for business (B) To criticize NASA's joke
(C) To explain how the vote worked (D) To admit a possible criticism before giving another view



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

Match the words with the definitions. Then rewrite and summarize.

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|----------------|--|
| 1. reference | a. the way a company or country creates an image of itself |
| 2. lunar | b. something that belongs to a person or a group |
| 3. exploration | c. a short mention of something without explaining it fully |
| 4. mission | d. connected with the moon |
| 5. rover | e. the act of traveling to a place to learn about it |
| 6. ordinary | f. an important job, especially a trip into space |
| 7. branding | g. a vehicle that moves on the surface of the moon or a planet |
| 8. property | h. normal and not special |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “Old stories about the moon have not disappeared in the space age; they have been given new jobs.”

Hint: Use are still alive and new ways.

2. “When the Chang'e 3 mission put a rover on the moon in December 2013, the rover's name, Yutu or Jade Rabbit, was chosen through an online public vote.”

Hint: Make the people the subject. Use voted online.

3. “You could call this clever national branding rather than real tradition.”

Hint: Use Some people may say and a smart way to make the country look good.

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

Prepare for a debate. Then write your opinion (100–150 words).

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Motion: Using old myths to name space missions is a good idea.

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- A familiar name like Jade Rabbit connects ordinary families to an expensive national project.
- It helps keep old stories alive for young people in the space age.
- A public vote on the name lets many people feel that the mission belongs to them.

Add your own reason:

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- It can be national branding that uses culture to make a country look good.
- Science should be for all people, but a myth from one culture may not feel shared by everyone.
- Names that describe the mission's job would be clearer for people around the world.

Add your own reason:

Opinion	<i>I believe / I think that ...</i>
Reason 1	<i>First, ... For example, ...</i>
Reason 2	<i>Second, ... In fact, ...</i>
Counter	<i>Some people say ... However, ...</i>
Conclusion	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>