

The First Footstep on the Moon



The astronauts left many footprints on the surface of the Moon. This picture is of the first step taken on the Moon's surface. Notice how sharp and clean the edges are. It looks like Neil Armstrong just made that print (actually, he had when the picture was taken!). If we were to go back there today, the footprint would look exactly the same.

- Why would Neil Armstrong's footprint look just the same after so many years?
- What might naturally change or destroy the footprint's appearance on the Moon?
- Can footprints on Earth last for more than thirty years? Why?
- Set up an experiment where your students make good sharp edged footprints in different areas (ie. In a high foot-traffic area, in a low foot-traffic area, in the open, under trees, in dirt, in snow, in slush, etc.). Monitor how the prints deteriorate over time (hours, days). How does the environment affect the longevity of the print?
- How long do footprints usually last on Earth?
- Name three reasons that tracks on Earth disappear.

Blackpoll Warbler. Courtesy of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service