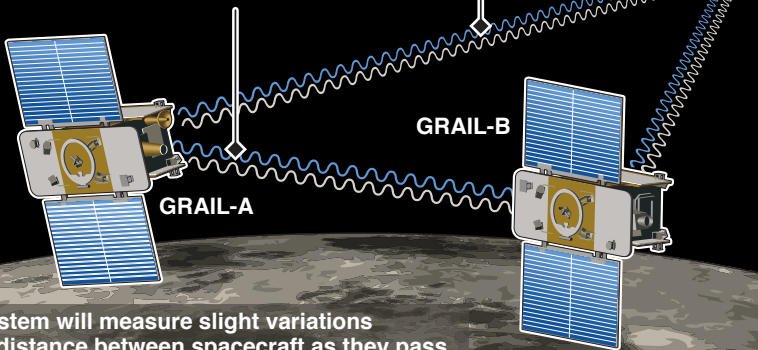


# NASA Grail probes begin lunar orbit

NASA's twin unmanned *Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory (GRAIL)* probes have begun a 90-day mission gathering data to create the first complete high-resolution map of the Moon's uneven gravitational field

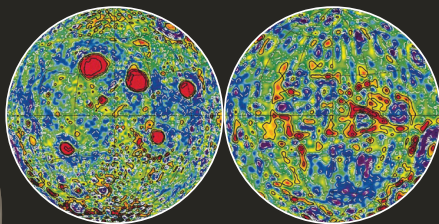
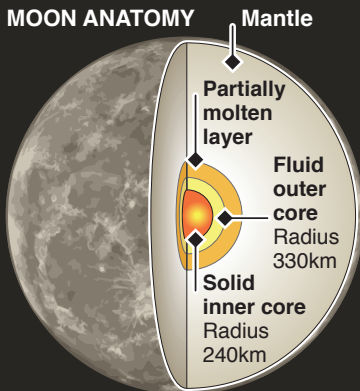
**GRAIL SATELLITES:** Will fly in tandem orbit around moon. Both spacecraft have *Lunar Gravity Ranging System* to precisely define distance between them

Communications and data transfer link with Earth



System will measure slight variations in distance between spacecraft as they pass through areas of greater or weaker gravity

## MOON ANATOMY



▲ **Lunar gravity:** GRAIL will aim to provide much more detailed information on gravitational anomalies – shown as red areas – than existing maps, allowing future manned missions to safely navigate anywhere on moon's surface