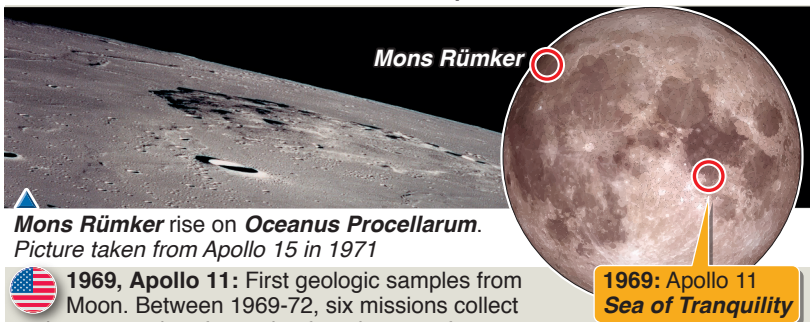



China mission to collect Moon samples

China has successfully launched a robotic spacecraft tasked with bringing back samples from the Moon – the first bid by any country to retrieve lunar surface samples since the 1970s




Mons Rümker rise on **Oceanus Procellarum**.


Picture taken from Apollo 15 in 1971


 **1969, Apollo 11:** First geologic samples from Moon. Between 1969-72, six missions collect and return 382kg of samples from lunar surface


1969: Apollo 11
Sea of Tranquility


 **1970-76, Luna programme:**
Three Soviet Luna probes return 301 grams of lunar soil to Earth


 **1993, Hiten:** Japanese Space Agency (JAXA) satellite intentionally crashes into Moon


 **1994, Clementine:** NASA mission maps lunar surface


 **1997, HGS 1:** First commercial satellite to make lunar flyby


 **1998, Lunar Prospector:** NASA makes detailed map of lunar surface composition


 **2003, SMART-1:** European Space Agency lunar orbiter tests solar-powered ion drive

 **2007, Kaguya:** JAXA lunar orbiter survey mission


 **2007, Chang'e 1:** Orbiter is first Chinese lunar mission


 **2008, Chandrayaan 1:** Indian Space Research Organization mission with lunar impact probe


 **2009, Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter-LCROSS:** NASA's LRO search for landing sites and water


 **2010, Chang'e 2:** Chinese mission to find landing site


 **2011, GRAIL:** Nasa mission to map lunar interior


 **2013, Chang'e 3:** Chinese lander and Yutu rover


 **2014, Chang'e 5 T1:** Test lunar sample return mission

 **2018, Queqiao:** Communications relay satellite for China's lunar farside mission

 **2018, Chang'e 4:** Chinese lander is first mission to far side of Moon. Rover takes 3D images

 **2019, Beresheet:** Failed bid by Israel to land on Moon

 **2019, Chandrayaan 2:** Failed Indian attempt to land on Moon

 **Nov-Dec 2020, Chang'e 5:** Craft will land in **Mons Rümker** region of **Oceanus Procellarum**. Chang'e 5 will stay on surface for one lunar day – 14 Earth days – and return 2-4kg sample by mid-December