

VIPER rover to search for ice-water on moon

NASA's new VIPER rover is set to search a lunar crater for ice – which could provide drinking water, air and rocket fuel needed for future manned missions to the moon

VIPER

Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover

Nov 2023: VIPER hitchhikes ride on static lander bound for moon. Mission will last **100** days

Landing site:

Near **Nobile Crater** at South Pole. Area in almost permanent shadow with temperatures as low as **-223°C**

VIPER will follow pre-planned route of **16-24km**, but route could change depending on what it finds



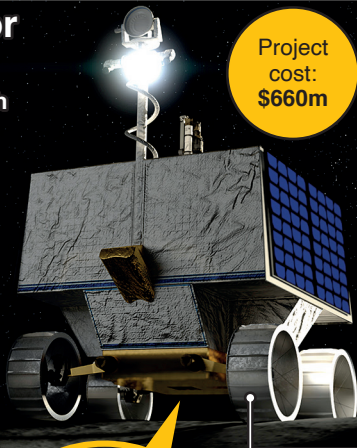
2022: **Artemis** program to return astronauts to moon begins with unmanned test of Orion space capsule

2024: First astronaut landing since 1972 expected by third mission

Sources: BBC, New York Times, NASA

Pictures: NASA

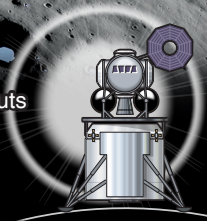
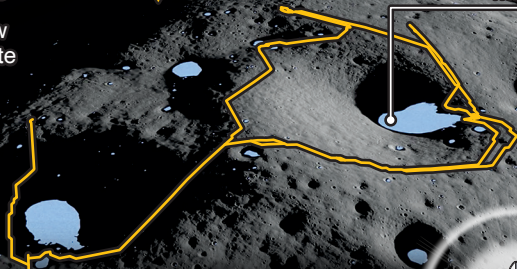
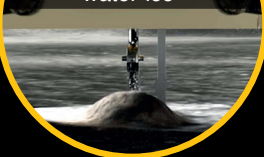
Project cost:
\$660m



Rover is similar size to golf buggy

Areas where NASA believes water-ice may be found

1m-long drill will test for subsurface water-ice



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