

## **Moon landing conspiracies DEBUNKED: 5 NASA Moon landing conspiracies explained**

By [Tom Fish](#)

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NASA'S Apollo 11 Moon landing was the most astonishing achievement in human history. Yet a number conspiracy theorists continue to believe the NASA Apollo Moon landings were faked. Express.co.uk debunks the leading Moon landing theories.

### **Lunar dust: Scientists analyse Apollo 17 artefact**

Millions around the world watched [NASA](#) astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin take one small step for mankind on July 20, 1969. Afterward, the two men and third crew member Michael Collins return safely to Earth. However, only a year later, a minority began to claim NASA's "giant leap for mankind" was faked. Theories the NASA Moon landing was actually a hoax waged by the US to win the space race against the Soviets began to gain take hold in the 1970s and although these claims easily countered, they have continued to this day.

### **There are many details that forgers could not possibly have got right in a recreation**

Sir Charles Shults III

### **The NASA Apollo 11 American flag looks like it is flapping in the wind:**

**The NASA Apollo 11 American flag appears to be flapping in the wind in the iconic Moon landing footage.**

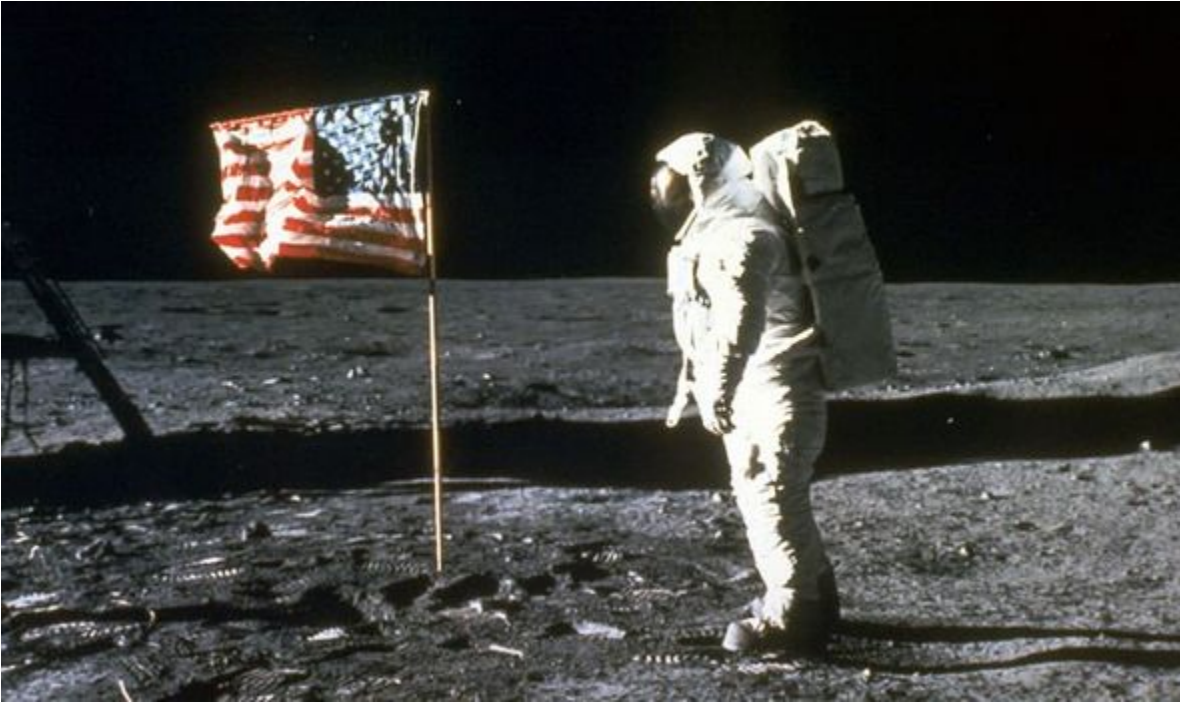
But conspiracy theorist point out there is no wind on the moon, which they use as evidence that Moon landing was faked.

However, this is because it was no an ordinary flag as NASA designed special flags for astronauts to take with them.

These flags had a horizontal rod inside to make them stick out from the flagpole.

The Apollo 11 astronauts had trouble extending the rod all the way, and in still pictures, this creates a ripple effect that makes the flag look like it's waving in the wind.

Careful study of video footage shows the flag only move while the astronauts are grinding it into the moon's surface.



NASA Apollo 11 Moon landing: Conspiracy theories have gained traction (Image: Getty)



Apollo 11 Moon landing conspiracies: NASA's mission was not a hoax waged by the US (Image: Getty)

**You cannot see the stars in the NASA Apollo 11 Moon landing footage:**

There are no stars in the pictures taken by NASA astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the Moon.

This is because all of the exposures of the astronauts on the moon are daylight exposures.

The lunar surface was brightly illuminated from the Sun and the NASA astronauts are wearing bright white space suits that are highly reflective.

The exposure on the astronauts' cameras was too short to capture the space suits and the moon's surface while also capturing the comparatively dimmer stars.

**The shadows do not look correct on the NASA Apollo 11 footage:**

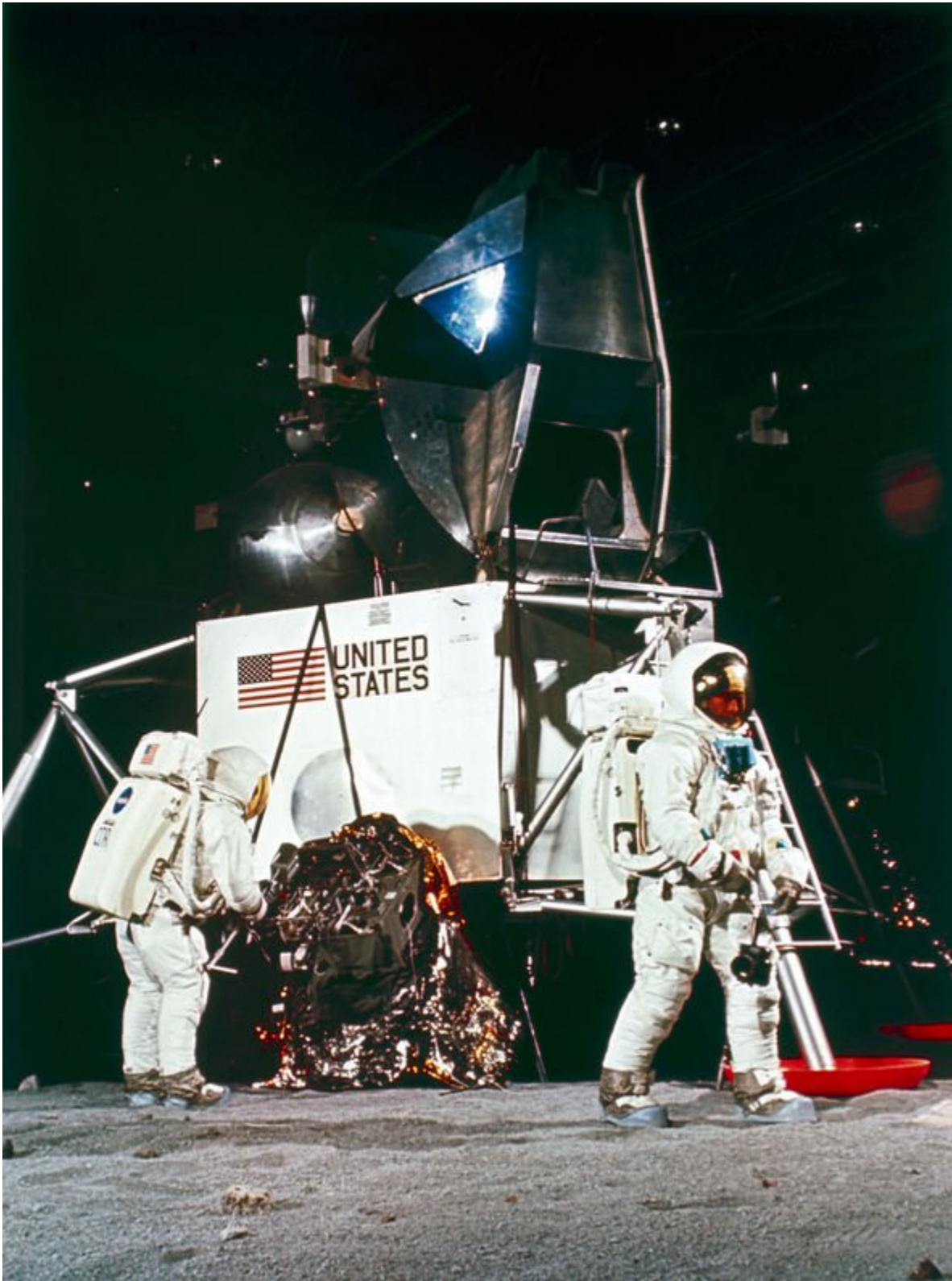
In photographs from the Moon landing, certain objects can be seen even though they are in shadow.

Conspiracy theorists use this to argue this would not be the case if the Sun were the only source of light.

They claim some objects can be seen in shadow is the consequence of special Hollywood lighting.

However, the Sun is not in fact the only source of light on the Moon.

The lunar ground is another source as it reflects the sun's light as the sunlight is being scattered or reflected off the ground and this enough for light to scatter into the shadows.



Moon landing conspiracies: Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins landed in 1969 (Image: Getty)



Moon landing conspiracies: Neil Armstrong took one small step on July 20, 1969 (Image: Getty)

**You cannot see Neil Armstrong's camera in his Apollo 11 Moon selfie:**

In one of the pictures from the moon landing, you can see Armstrong clearly reflected in Aldrin's visor.

Some conspiracy theorists point out Armstrong does not appear to be holding a camera, meaning someone else must have taken the picture.

The NASA astronaut couldn't walk around the moon with a regular hand-held camera.

In his bulky suit, Armstrong required something easy to manipulate.

The camera he used on the moon was mounted on the front of his suit, which is where his hands are in the reflection.

### **Did director Stanley Kubrick actually film the NASA Apollo 11 Moon landings?**

Director Stanley Kubrick's film 2001: A Space Odyssey amazed audiences in 1968 for his realistic depiction of outer space.

The iconic film was so compelling it caused some conspiracy theorists to speculate whether the US government had actually hired Kubrick to film the moon landing in Hollywood.

However, Kubrick's movie 2001 looked real because Kubrick enlisted astronomical artists and aerospace engineers to help him with it.