LEARNING RESOURCE
THE MOON

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY K–6
EARTH AND SPACE Stage 3

SEE

If you can, look at the Moon around the time it is full or perhaps a day or two before or after. A pair of binoculars will make the view much better. What can you see? Look for features marked on our map on the next page.

THINK

In what ways do you think the Moon is important? You might be surprised by how many influences it has.

WONDER

The Moon features in poetry, folklore and literature. Why do you think we are so fascinated about our celestial neighbour?

— The Moon is the only natural satellite of Earth and is the fifth largest moon in the Solar System.

— The Moon has a diameter of 3,476km and is almost one quarter the size of Earth's 12,756km.

— The average distance between the centre of the Moon and the centre of the Earth 384,402km.

— Having no light of its own, the Moon shines because it reflects light from the Sun.

— The Moon is tidally locked with Earth which means we always see the same side of the Moon.

— The Moon takes 27 days 19 hours and 18 minutes to turn on its axis.

— The Moon takes 29 days 12 hours 44 minutes to orbit Earth.

— The Moon is moving away from Earth by approximately 38mm per year.

— Surface temperature on the Moon ranges from -184°C to +101°C.

— The Moon has moonquakes which can last up to 30 minutes but are much weaker than earthquakes on Earth.

— The first person to walk on the Moon was Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong on 20 July, 1969 (21 July 1969 in Sydney).

— The Moon smells! Astronauts reported a burnt metallic smell from dust on their spacesuits after returning from walking on the Moon.

Developed by the Powerhouse Museum

Image: Apollo 12 Lunar Module
Photo by NASA/JSC

LEARNING RESOURCE
THE MOON SIZE OF CRATERS AND SEAS/OCEAN

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY K–6
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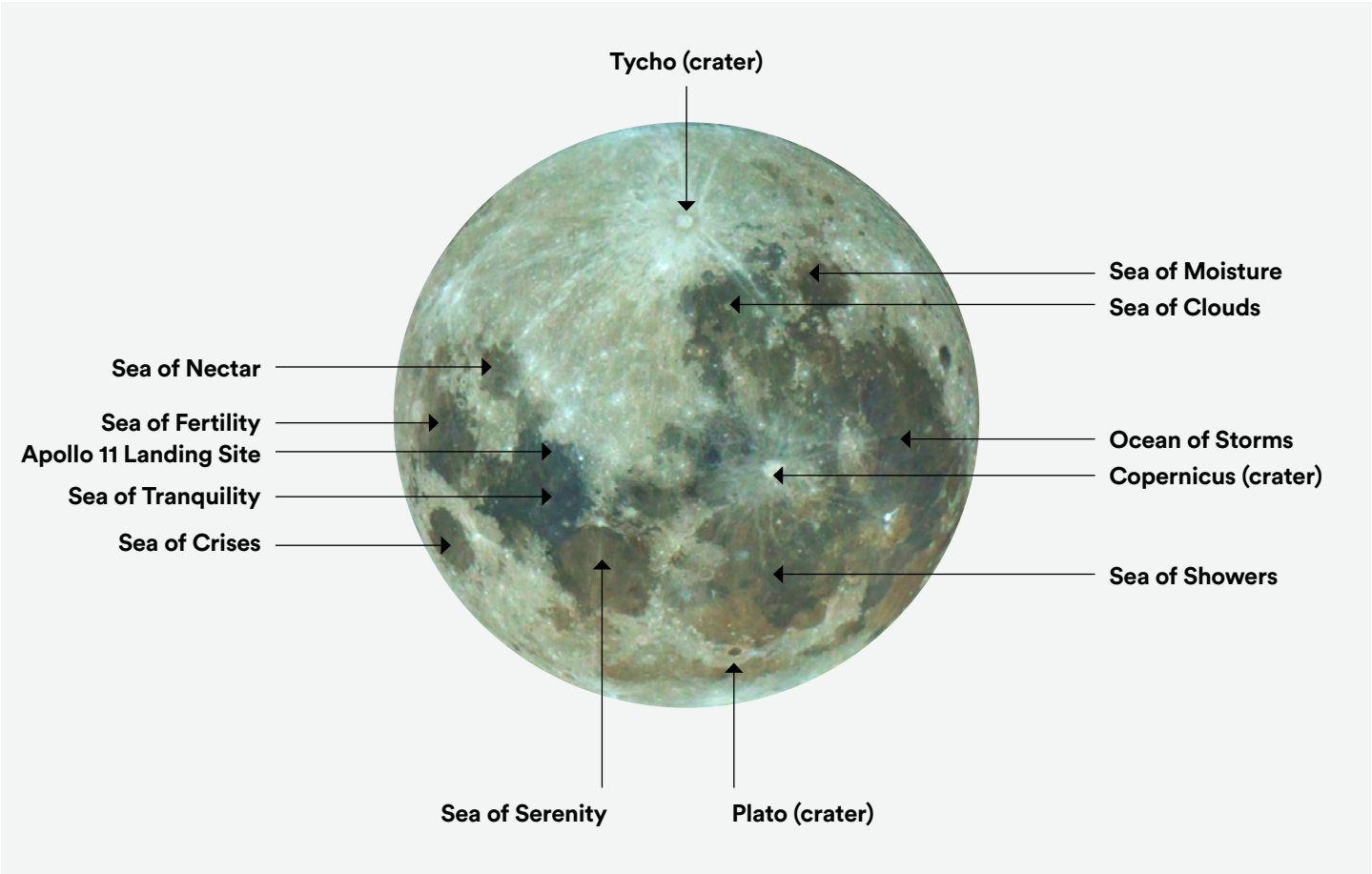

SEAS AND OCEAN

Sea of Tranquility:
873km in diameter or the distance from Sydney Observatory to Apollo Bay, Vic

Sea of Nectar: 333km in diameter or the distance from Sydney Observatory to Nimmitabel, NSW

Sea of Crises: 418km in diameter or the distance from Sydney Observatory to Coonamble, NSW

Sea of Fertility: 909km in diameter or the distance from Sydney Observatory to Rainbow Beach, QLD

Ocean of Storms: 2,568km in diameter or the distance from Sydney Observatory to Cape Arid, WA

Sea of Moisture: 389km in diameter or the distance from Sydney Observatory to Mount Kosciuszko, NSW

Sea of Clouds: 715km in diameter or the distance from Sydney Observatory to Melbourne, Vic

Sea of Serenity: 707km in diameter or the distance from Sydney Observatory to Bendigo, Vic

Sea of Showers: 1,123km in diameter or the distance from Sydney Observatory to Mount Pleasant, SA

CRATERS

Copernicus: 96km in diameter or the distance from Sydney Observatory to Kiama, NSW

Plato: 100km in diameter or the distance from Sydney Observatory to Bowral, NSW

Tycho: 85km in diameter or the distance from Sydney Observatory to Katoomba, NSW

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Image: The Moon
Photo by Geoff Wyatt