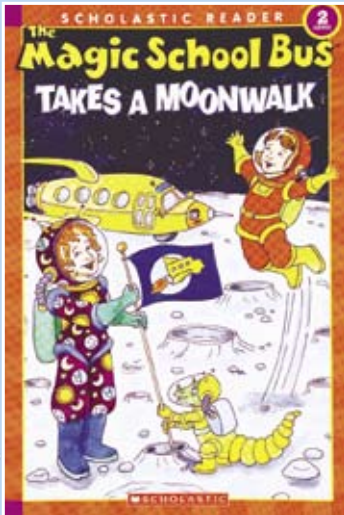# The Magic School Bus™
TAKES A MOONWALK

Written by Joanna Cole and illustrated by Bruce Degen

AMAZING MOON FACTS

- There are 94 moons in our solar system—but only one of them is visible from Earth!
- Our moon is a huge ball of rock, about one-quarter of the size of Earth.
- The moon has a grey, sandy surface. It is covered in craters caused by comets and meteorites crashing into it.
- It would take approximately 26 days to fly to the moon in a 747 aeroplane.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of the moon landing with your class on 20th July 2009!

- **Model of the Moon.** Bring a desk lamp into the classroom to demonstrate firstly how the Earth goes around the Sun, and then how the Moon goes around the Earth. A basketball works well as the Sun, a tennis ball may represent the Earth, and then a ping-pong ball could be the Moon.

- **Reflected Light.** The moon does not make its own light—it simply reflects the light from the Sun. Explore how light can be 'bounced' off objects, by bringing a mirror and desk lamp into the classroom. Use the mirror to bounce the light into a dark corner of the room.

- **Gravity Grab.** Discuss with students the concept of gravity—the force of a planet, moon or star that pulls objects toward its centre. Discuss how astronauts cope with eating and sleeping in space (food cannot be laid on a plate, otherwise it would float away). While sleeping astronauts need to be strapped to the bed, so they will not float around the cabin. Invite students to design a game for astronauts to play while travelling to the Moon, which can be played in zero gravity. Discuss the use of items such as Velcro or magnets to stop movable objects from floating away.

- **Astronomical Alphabets.** Throughout the book, there are short facts about space written by the students in Ms Frizzle's class. As a class, create an astronomical alphabet by children suggesting words for each letter of the alphabet.

WE'RE GOING HOME, MR. COX.

CAN'T WE STAY A LITTLE LONGER?

NO, DAD!

SCHOLASTIC

Lucky BOOK CLUB