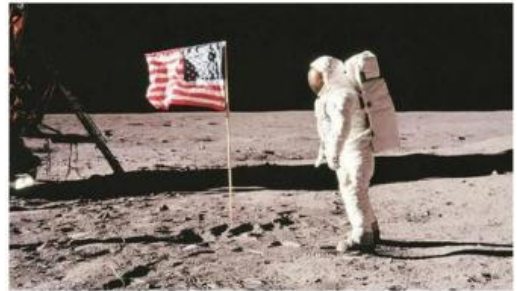


Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

spawned a hoax cast doubt smoking gun perpetuates

The Moon landing was faked

NASA landed astronauts on the moon in 1969. By the 1970s, an bizarre conspiracy emerged — that the moon landing was actually 1) _____. The conspiracy was described in a 1976 self-published book, "We Never Went to the Moon: America's Thirty Billion Dollar Swindle," and that made millions of Americans 2) _____ on the whole mission. Allegedly, the U.S. government, desperate to either beat the Soviets in the space race (which they were not capable of doing fairly) or distract from Vietnam, put Neil Armstrong under klieg lights on a soundstage, maybe as Stanley Kubrick directed. The 3) _____, sceptics say, is the famous Apollo photos, which NASA controls all access to: the American flag seems to be waving in the wind and the absence of stars seen from the moon. There are plenty of debunkings of these claims, but the most airtight argument is hundreds of pounds of moon rocks that have been studied around the world and verified as being of extraterrestrial origin. How did NASA get the rocks if not during a moon landing?



Aliens built the Egyptian pyramids



The famous conspiracy theory alleges that the ancient pyramids in Egypt were not built by ancient Egyptians, but were instead created by extraterrestrial lifeforms. Experts believe that people have 4) _____ these claims because some find it hard to believe that an ancient civilization had the means to build such grand structures that have endured thousands of years later. Historians assume the pyramids took around 85 years to build and were constructed sometimes between 2589 and 2504 BC – making them more than 4,000 years old. While some may write off the conspiracy as being just that, some believe it's rooted in racism. Grand structures that were built in Ancient Greece and Rome seem to be immune to similar conspiracy theories, and experts believe it "5) _____ a very Eurocentric view of other cultures" including Egypt, the Mayans and the Incans.