TIME for KIDS



Explore the Moon

Learn more about Earth's closest neighbor.

Earth's Moon

The moon is Earth's closest neighbor. Look up! You can see it in the night sky. Sometimes, you can see it during the day.



The moon is a large rock.

It is one-fourth the size of the Earth. The moon is covered with craters. Craters are formed when objects hit the moon's surface.

ALEX DEAN—GETTY IMAGES

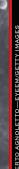


The moon orbits the Earth.

It takes 27 days for the moon to orbit, or travel around, Earth. Its gravity pulls on Earth. This causes tides. Oceans have high tides and low tides each day.

The moon has eight phases.

The moon seems to change shape. Its shape depends on how it lines up with the Earth and sun. It gets its light from the sun.







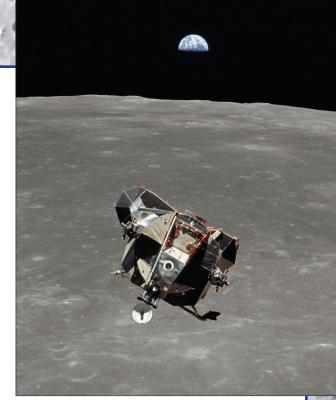
Did You Know?

Other planets have moons too. Some have many moons. This is
Jupiter. It has 79 known moons. There are more than 200 moons in the solar system.



Moon Missions

In 1969, people landed on the moon for the first time. The mission was part of the Apollo program. It was run by NASA. That is the United States space agency. There were many Apollo missions. Here are five of them. Would you like to explore the moon?



This is the Apollo 11 lunar module. It is returning to the command module after landing on the moon.

DECEMBER 1968

Apollo 8 orbits the moon. This was the first manned mission to do so. It made 10 orbits.

JULY 1969

Apollo 11 sends the first astronauts to land on the moon. Two walk on its surface.

DECEMBER 1972

Apollo 17 is the final Apollo mission. It is the last time the U.S. sent people to the moon.

1968 1969

1971

1972

1973

MAY 1969

Apollo 10 is a test run. Astronauts test everything needed for a moon landing. But they do not land.

NOVEMBER 1969

Apollo 12 is the second lunar landing. Data and samples are collected from the moon.

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