



THE MOON



EARTH'S NATURAL SATELLITE

The Moon is Earth's only natural satellite. It shines by reflecting the Sun's light.

QUICK FACTS









- TYPE:** Natural Satellite
- DIAMETER:** 3,474 km
- DISTANCE FROM EARTH:** 384,400 km (average)
- ORBITAL PERIOD:** 27.3 Earth days
- ROTATION PERIOD:** 27.3 Earth days (same as orbital period)
- GRAVITY:** 1/6 of Earth's
- SURFACE TEMPERATURE:** -233°C to 123°C
- ATMOSPHERE:** None
- WATER:** Ice at the poles
- First visited by humans:** Apollo 11 in 1969



DID YOU KNOW?

- The Moon doesn't have its own light. It reflects sunlight.
- The same side of the Moon always faces Earth.
- There is no air or water on the Moon.
- Footprints on the Moon can last for millions of years!

PHASES OF THE MOON

-  **NEW MOON**
The Moon is between Earth and the Sun. We can't see it.
-  **WAXING CRESCENT**
A small part of the Moon is lit up.
-  **FIRST QUARTER**
Half of the Moon is illuminated.
-  **WAXING GIBBOUS**
More than half of the Moon is lit up.
-  **FULL MOON**
The whole face of the Moon is lit up.
-  **WANING GIBBOUS**
More than half of the Moon is lit, but it's getting smaller.
-  **LAST QUARTER**
Half of the Moon is illuminated.
-  **WANING CRESCENT**
A small part of the Moon is lit up.

FEATURES OF THE MOON

CRATERS

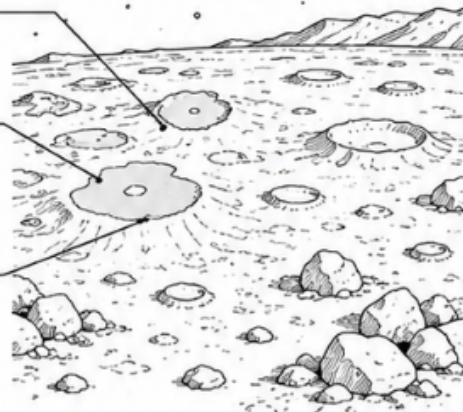
Formed by impacts from space rocks.

MARIA (Lunar Seas)

Large, dark, flat plains formed by ancient lava flows.

HIGHLANDS

Light-colored, rocky, and full of craters.



MOON FACTS

-  Humans have walked on the Moon.
-  Temperatures can be extremely hot or very cold.
-  The Moon has been hit by millions of meteoroids.
-  The first Moon landing was by Apollo 11 on July 20, 1969.

THE MOON'S ORBIT

The Moon orbits around Earth in an oval-shaped path. It takes about 27.3 days to complete one orbit.

