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# Moon

# Facts



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# Facts About The Moon

Earth's moon is the fifth largest in the Solar System and is 384,403 kilometres (238,857 miles) away from us. The Moon is a quarter of the size of the Earth.

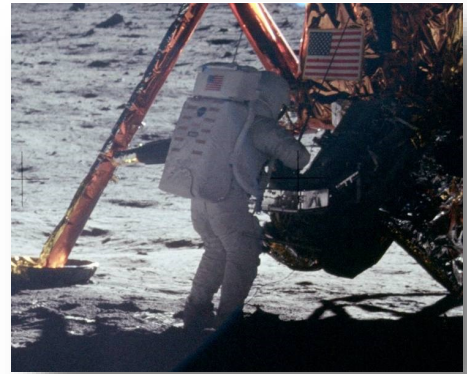
The Moon is Earth's only natural satellite. Natural satellites are bodies which orbit (move around) a planet or asteroid.

The Moon orbits the Earth every 27.3 days, which is why we see a full moon about once a month.

Occasionally there will be two full moons in the same month, and the second is called a "blue moon". The phrase "Once in a blue moon." is used to describe something that doesn't happen very often.

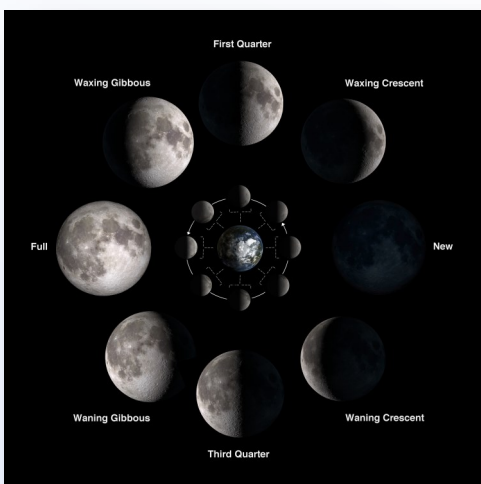
The Moon's day is the same as the length of time as its orbit around the Earth. That means we always see the same side of the Moon, and can never see the far side unless we go up in a space rocket.

The first person to walk on The Moon was Neil Armstrong, on 20th July 1969.



The Moon's gravity pulls on the water in The Earth's oceans, making them bulge upwards. As the Earth spins, each point on the surface passes through these bulges twice a day causing the tide to come in and go out.

Gravity on The Moon is about one fifth as strong as it is on the Earth, which means that you'd be able to jump much higher and further up there than you would down here.



There is no air on The Moon, which means people can't survive there without a space suit.

The Moon gets very hot during its day, 107 degrees Celsius, and very cold at night, -153 degrees Celsius.

The Moon doesn't shine by itself, it reflects light from The Sun. As it moves around its orbit each month, we see different phases of the moon.