

THE EARTH'S MOON



The moon is a fascinating object that can be seen in the night sky. It is not a planet, but it is one of the largest objects in our solar system and the **5TH LARGEST MOON**. The moon is about one-quarter the size of Earth and is about 238,855 miles away from us.

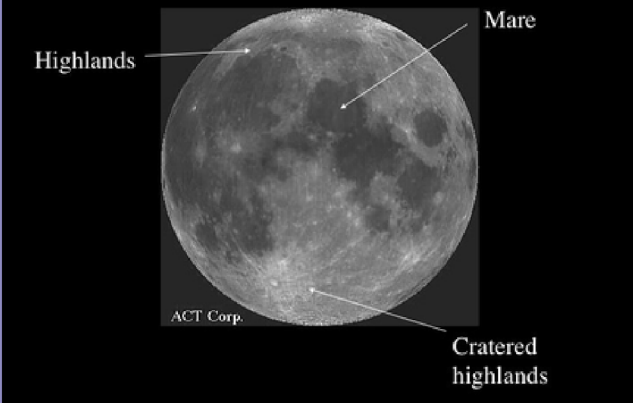


The moon has been explored by humans and robots. The first humans to land on the moon were Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin in 1969. They were part of the **APOLLO 11** mission. Since then, many other missions have been sent to the moon to learn more about its surface and to see if there is water or other resources that could be useful for future missions. The moon is an important part of our solar system and studying it helps us learn more about the universe around us.

The moon is a rocky and dusty place. It has many craters and mountains on its surface. The temperature on the moon can get really hot during the day and very cold at night. The moon also doesn't have any air or water on its surface, which means there is no weather like we have on Earth.

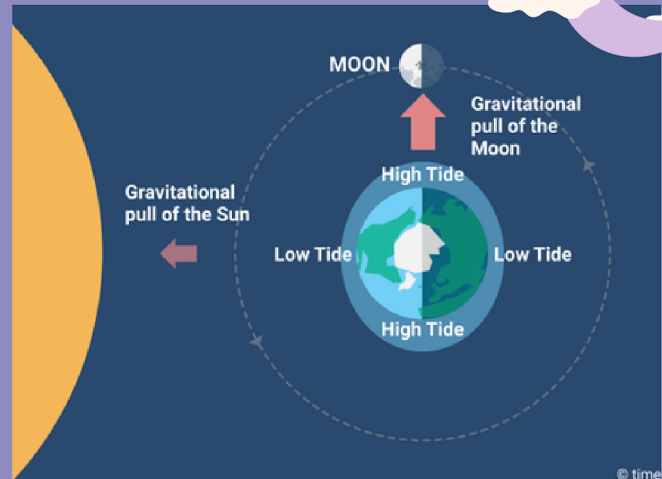


The Moon ... 4.5 billion years old



The moon's surface is divided into two main regions: the **highlands** and the **maria**. The highlands are mountainous areas that cover about 80% of the moon's surface. The maria are large, flat plains that make up the remaining 20%.

The moon has a unique surface feature known as a **rille**, which is a long, narrow valley that can be hundreds of kilometers long. It also homes numerous **impact craters**, which were created by asteroids and comets colliding with the moon's surface.



The moon has **no atmosphere**, which means there is no weather or erosion on its surface.

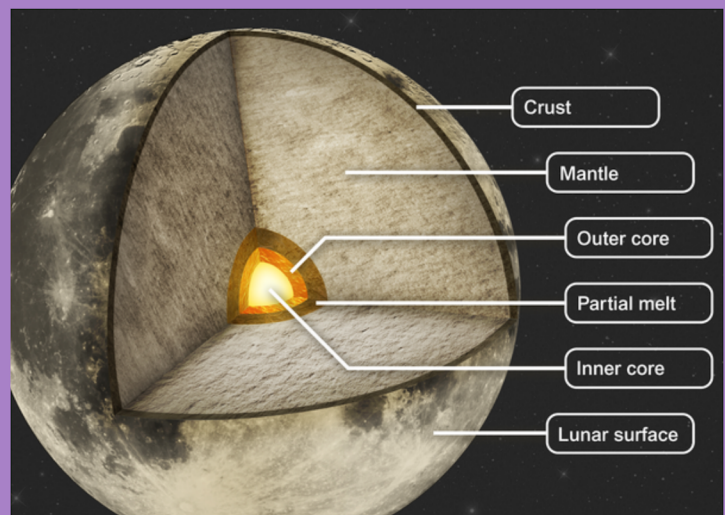
It's gravity is only about one-sixth of Earth's gravity, which means that **objects weigh much less on the moon than they do on Earth**.

The moon is tidally locked to Earth, which means that it always shows the same face to Earth as it orbits around us.

The moon's crust is much **thinner** than Earth's crust, averaging about 35 kilometres thick.

Beneath the crust is the moon's **mantle**, which extends down to a depth of about 1,000 kilometers. The mantle is believed to be made up of **semi-solid rock**.

The moon's **core** is much **smaller** than Earth's core, and it is believed to be partially molten. It has a radius of about 340 kilometers.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

SET 1 (EASY)

What are the two main regions of the moon's surface?

What is regolith?

What is a rille?

SET 2 (MEDIUM)

What is the moon's core made of?

Why does the moon have so many impact craters?

What does it mean that the moon is tidally locked to Earth?

SET 3 (HARD)

How did the moon form?

What is the significance of the moon's lack of atmosphere?

What are some of the potential uses for the moon's resources?

SET 4 (CHALLENGE)

What are some of the unanswered questions about the moon's structure?

How might we explore and study the moon's interior in the future?

What implications might the moon's structure have for our understanding of the early solar system?

