

The Moon

Do you ever look up in the sky at night and see the Moon shining down and lighting up the night-time town? Do you sometimes wonder what it would be like to visit the Moon or wonder why it shines so bright? Well here's some information that might interest you...

Moon and Sun:

The Moon shines very brightly, but is only reflecting the light of the Sun it can't make its own light. When the Sun comes back up for our day time we think that the Moon goes away but it doesn't, it's just harder to see because it is so bright. Sometimes, if you look carefully, you can see the Moon in the sky during the day time.



Did you know?

Average temperature in the day: 107°C

Average temperature at night: -153°C

Distance from Earth: 238,857 miles

Diameter: 2,160 miles

Length of Day: 708 hours

Selenophobia is fear of The Moon

Orbit:

The Moon is the Earth's only satellite (that means something that orbits a larger object). It takes the Moon about 28 days to orbit the Earth once, we call this a lunar month. During this time we only ever see the same side of the Moon as it rotates slowly whilst it moves around us.

During its orbit the Moon is sometimes covered by a shadow of the Earth, this is what gives us the phases of the moon, when it is waxing (growing bigger) and waning (getting smaller) with shapes including crescent and gibbous.

Moonwalking:

Only 12 people have ever walked on the Moon! The first person to do this was Neil Armstrong on 20th July 1969. There were two other men on the mission: Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins and they all travelled on the Apollo 11 shuttle.

You may have seen a film of people walking on the Moon and it isn't quite the same as walking on the Earth...walking on the Moon looks bouncy because the Moon's gravity is not as strong as the Earth's, so people take longer to fall back down when they are up in the air.

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Questions About The Moon

1. How many people were on the first moon landing mission?

2. How does the moon look like it lights up when it doesn't?

3. What is a satellite?

4. How much colder is the Moon at night than in the daytime?

5. What causes the shadow on the Moon?

6. Why is the Moon colder than Earth at night?

7. Where does the Moon go in the daytime?

8. How long does it take the Moon to orbit the Earth?

9. How far did Neil Armstrong travel to get to the Moon?

10. Work out how long it would take a car travelling at 70mph to get to the Moon.

a: In hours

b: In days
