

Earth



Earth is only one of the planets in our solar system. There are seven other planets that also orbit our Sun.

Mercury



Earth



Venus



Mars



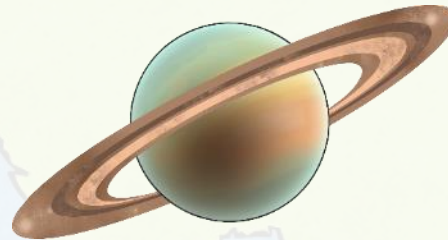
Jupiter



Uranus



Saturn



Neptune



Our Home Planet

Earth, our home planet, is the third planet from the Sun and the fifth largest planet in the Solar System. Earth is 150 million kilometres from the Sun.





"A Sky View of Earth From Suomi NPP" by NASA Goddard Space Flight Center is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)

It takes the Earth 24 hours to rotate once.

A complete orbit of the Sun takes 365.25 days. Our calendars count a year as being 365 days. The extra 0.25 of a day is counted as an extra day every four years; a 'leap year'.

The Earth is at a slight tilt, meaning parts of the Earth are closer to the Sun at different times of the year. It is this tilt that causes the four seasons.



The Earth is the only planet in the Solar System to have water on its surface.

Liquid water covers over 70% of the total surface of the planet.

The centre of the Earth is made of a hot metal core, surrounded by a liquid metal outer core, a mantle of molten rock and a rocky crust on the outside.

The Earth has a variety of landscapes, including mountains, volcanoes, deserts, arctic, grasslands and valleys.

The surface of the Earth is split into different sections called tectonic plates. These plates are constantly moving, in some areas by about approximately 5 to 10cm every year.



Exploring

The atmosphere of the Earth is made up of a mixture of gases;

- 78% nitrogen
- 21% oxygen
- 1% other gases (such as argon, carbon dioxide and neon).

The atmosphere of Earth affects the climate around the world and also burns up some of the harmful radiation that comes from the Sun and some meteors in the sky before they can reach the ground.




"Sunrise, Earth Limb" by NASA Goddard Space Flight Center is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

It is not known for sure how 'Earth' got its name. One theory is the name came from Old English and German words 'eorthe' and 'erde' meaning 'ground', but that is not for certain.

Earth is the only planet in the Solar System that is not named after a Greek or Roman god or goddess.





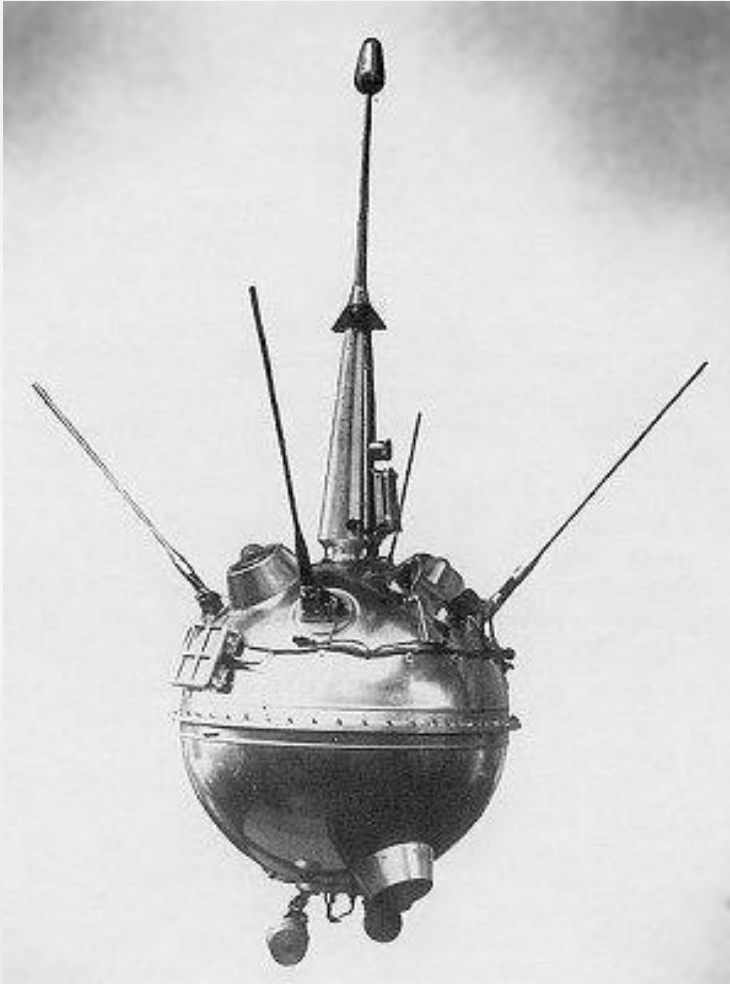
The Earth has one moon.
It is largely known as 'the Moon',
however it is also known by its Latin
name, 'Luna', which is where the
adjective 'lunar' comes from.

The Moon is 384,400 kilometres away
from Earth. That means you could fit 30
Earth-sized planets in between Earth and
the Moon!

The Moon is the only place humans have
set foot aside from the Earth.

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Moon Exploration



Humans have studied Earth's moon for thousands of years.

It is the most explored body in our Solar System apart from Earth, having been visited by numerous spacecraft.

The first spacecraft to touch the surface of the Moon was the unmanned Soviet probe 'Luna 2' in 1959. It crashed into the surface as it was designed to in order to test whether the Moon's craters contained ice.

Moon Exploration

After the success of Luna 2, the Soviet Space program sent many more spacecraft to the Moon.

The first to successfully land intact on the surface was Luna 9 in 1966. The same year, Luna 10 became the first man-made object to orbit the Moon.



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Moon Exploration

In 1968, Apollo 8 became the first manned spacecraft to orbit the moon.

Astronauts Frank Borman, James Lovell and William Anders became the first humans to travel beyond Earth's orbit and see our home planet as a whole.

During their mission, they were able to make observations of the Moon's surface and take photographs, including the very first photograph of Earth from a distance.



Moon Exploration



NASA spacecraft Apollo 11 arrived in orbit around the Moon on July 19th 1969 in preparation for landing on the Moon's surface. On board were three astronauts; Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins.

On July 24th, the lunar module successfully landed and Armstrong became the first man to walk on the Moon.

While on the surface, Armstrong and Aldrin collected samples of moon rock, took photos and planted an American flag.

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Photographs of the Moon

