

Moon Fun Facts

It takes the Moon 27 days, 7 hours, 43 minutes, 11.6 seconds to orbit the Earth once (and a day on the moon lasts 29.5 earth days).

The moon is moving 1.5 inches away from earth each year.

If you were driving in a car 60 mph, you could get to the moon in six months.

The moon is bigger than Pluto.

If we had no moon, our days would 6-8 hours long instead of 24.

The Moon was probably created by a collision between the forming Earth and a piece of astral debris. This also accounts for its mixed composition of Earth-like rocks and alien rocks.

Earth has another Moon! It's true. But the other one is just three miles across. Astronomers discovered it in 1999. Few people know about it. It's called Cruithne. Cruithne, as it is called, takes 770 years to complete a horseshoe-shaped orbit around Earth, the scientists say, and it will remain in a suspended state around Earth for at least 5,000 years.

Because the Moon's atmosphere is so thin, there's no wind or rain. That's why the flag that we put on the Moon when we landed there for the first time in 1969, had to have a horizontal pole inserted in the top or it would just have hung down!

Craters pit the surface of the Moon. Collisions with space rocks and asteroids formed them over 4 billion years ago. They stay unchanged because the Moon has almost no geological activity and no weather, either!

The Saturn V launch vehicle was taller than the Statue of Liberty. 316 feet (96 meters) tall, and 33 feet (11 meters) in diameter, making it a full 58 feet (18 meters) taller than the Statue of Liberty

Apollo 8 was the first Apollo mission to orbit the Moon

The Apollo program created many spin-off products

While there are probably as many spin-off products that are mistakenly attributed to the Apollo program as there are genuine ones, portable cordless vacuum cleaners, as we know them today is perhaps the best known.

When NASA announced the need for a portable, self-contained drill with which to extract core samples from beneath the lunar surface during Apollo missions, the Black & Decker Company was tasked with developing such a device. To do this, the company developed a computer program to aid in designing the drill's electric motor so that it used the least possible amount of energy, while doing what it was designed to do. Soon after the drill was shown to be effective, the same computer program was used to design a miniature, portable vacuum cleaner, named the Dust Buster, which was light, cordless and naturally proved a popular household tool when it was first marketed in 1979.