



## Moon Facts

The Moon (or Luna) is the [Earth's](#) only natural satellite and was formed 4.6 billion years ago around some 30–50 million years after the formation of the [solar system](#). The Moon is in synchronous rotation with Earth meaning the same side is always facing the Earth. The first unmanned mission to the Moon was in 1959 by the Soviet Lunar Program with the first manned landing being Apollo 11 in 1969.

## Size of the Moon Compared to the Earth

Moon  
size  
compared  
to the  
Earth

### MOON PROFILE

**Diameter:** 3,475 km

**Mass:** 7.35 ×  
10<sup>22</sup> kg  
(0.01  
Earths)

**Orbits:** The Earth

**Orbit Distance:** 384,400 km

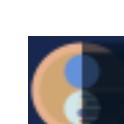
**Orbit Period:** 27.3 days

**Surface Temperature:** -233 to 123 °C

### TOP PAGES



[Mars Facts](#)



[Planet Facts](#)



[Mercury Facts](#)

## Facts about the Moon

- **The dark side of the moon is a myth.**

In reality both sides of the Moon see the same amount of sunlight however only one face of the Moon is ever seen from Earth. This is because the Moon rotates around on

its own axis in exactly the same time it takes to orbit the Earth, meaning the same side is always facing the Earth. The side facing away from Earth has only been seen by the human eye from spacecraft.

- **The rise and fall of the tides on Earth is caused by the Moon.**

There are two bulges in the Earth due to the gravitational pull that the Moon exerts; one on the side facing the Moon, and the other on the opposite side that faces away from the Moon. The bulges move around the oceans as the Earth rotates, causing high and low tides around the globe.

- **The Moon is drifting away from the Earth.**

The Moon is moving approximately 3.8 cm away from our planet every year. It is estimated that it will continue to do so for around 50 billion years. By the time that happens, the Moon will be taking around 47 days to orbit the Earth instead of the current 27.3 days.

- **A person would weigh much less on the Moon.**

The Moon has much weaker gravity than Earth, due to its smaller mass, so you would weigh about one sixth (16.5%) of your weight on Earth. This is why the lunar astronauts could leap and bound so high in the air.

- **The Moon has only been walked on by 12 people; all American men.**

The first man to set foot on the Moon in 1969 was Neil Armstrong on the Apollo 11 mission, while the last man to walk on the Moon in 1972 was Gene Cernan on the Apollo 17 mission. Since then the Moon has only been visited by unmanned vehicles.

- **The Moon has no atmosphere.**

This means that the surface of the Moon is unprotected from cosmic rays, meteorites and solar winds, and has huge temperature variations. The lack of atmosphere means no sound can be heard on the Moon, and the sky always appears black.

- **The Moon has quakes.**



Uranus Facts



Space Facts



Earth Facts



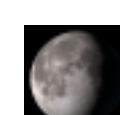
Saturn Facts



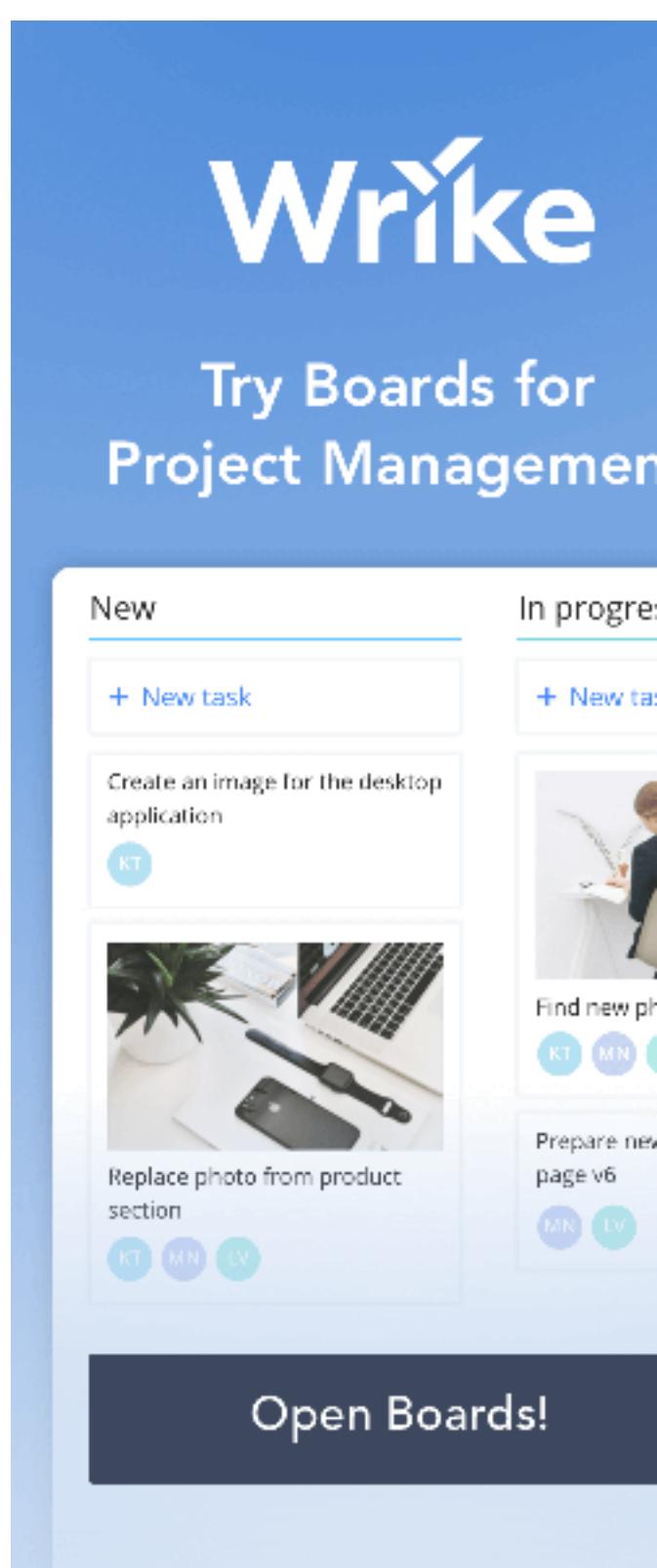
Dwarf Planet Facts



Venus Facts



Moon Facts



The image shows a screenshot of the Wrike project management software. At the top, there's a large blue header with the Wrike logo and the text "Try Boards for Project Management". Below the header, there are two columns of tasks. The left column is labeled "New" and contains a task titled "Create an image for the desktop application" with a sub-task "Replace photo from product section". The right column is labeled "In progress" and contains a task titled "Find new ph" with sub-tasks "Prepare new page v6" and "MN LV". At the bottom right, there's a large button labeled "Open Boards!".

These are caused by the gravitational pull of the Earth. Lunar astronauts used seismographs on their visits to the Moon, and found that small moonquakes occurred several kilometres beneath the surface, causing ruptures and cracks. Scientists think the Moon has a molten core, just like Earth.

- **The first spacecraft to reach the Moon was Luna 1 in 1959.**  
This was a Soviet craft, which was launched from the USSR. It passed within 5995 km of the surface of the Moon before going into orbit around the Sun.
- **The Moon is the fifth largest natural satellite in the Solar System.**  
At 3,475 km in diameter, the Moon is much smaller than the major moons of Jupiter and Saturn. Earth is about 80 times the volume than the Moon, but both are about the same age. A prevailing theory is that the Moon was once part of the Earth, and was formed from a chunk that broke away due to a huge object colliding with Earth when it was relatively young.
- **During the 1950's the USA considered detonating a nuclear bomb on the Moon.**  
The secret project was during the height cold war was known as "A Study of Lunar Research Flights" or "Project A119" and meant as a show of strength at a time they were lagging behind in the space race.

## Phases of the Moon (Northern Hemisphere)

### RECENT POSTS

- Google's Planet Scale Mistake
- The Ultimate List of TV Shows set in Space or on Other Planets
- Jupiter's Galilean Moons (Profile Gifs)
- The Planets and Moons of Star Wars to Scale
- Planet Orbits
- Pluto Size, Composition, Distance from Sun & Moons





Wrike

# Collaborative Work Management



## RELATED SPACE FACTS:



Solar Eclipse Facts



Earth Facts



Uranus Facts