



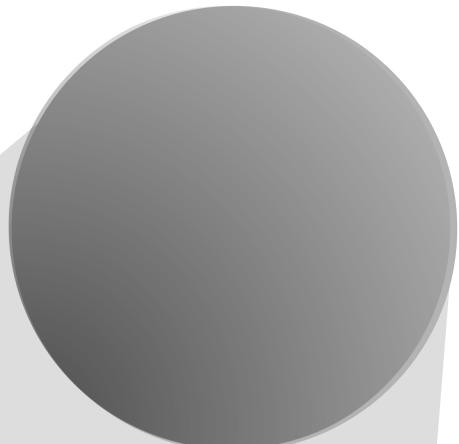
a supermoon zine:
26.04.20

PINK

SUPERMOON



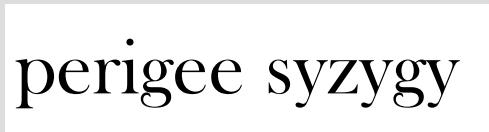
méab



I see the moon

and the moon sees me,

it looks a little bigger



as it's a perigee syzygy



syzygy: full moon

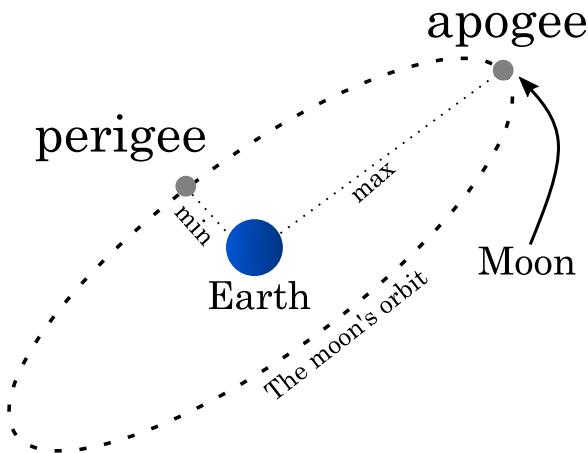


Figure 1: Diagram of the moon-Earth system

1 perigee syzygy

Supermoon isn't actually the scientific term for what happened on April 8th 2020, nor did it look pink. Supermoon is an astrological as opposed to astronomical term, coined by Richard Nolle in a 1979 horoscope article (that's 10 years after the first moon landing, by the way). The term might be easier to say than the scientific term perigee syzygy [**perr-i-jee sizz-eh-jee**], but tells you less about what is actually happening in the sky.

Syzygy means that the moon, Sun and Earth are aligned in a nice straight line, resulting in a full or new moon. This is called a conjunction when there's a full moon, or opposition when there's a new moon. It's also used to describe the position of other planets relative to us, not just our moon.

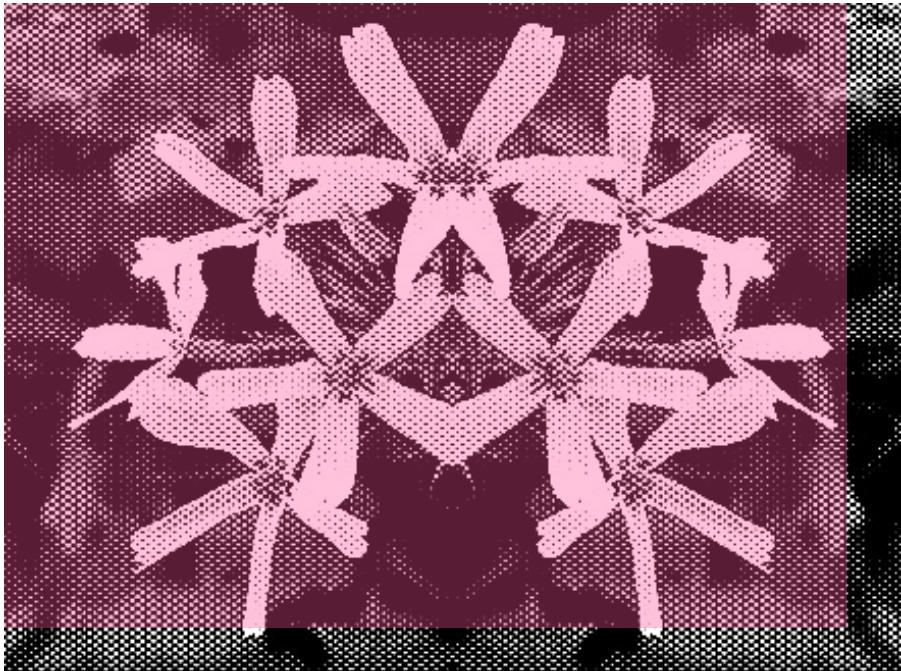


Figure 2: *Phlox subulata*

2 phlox subulata

Where does the pink in the name come from? The colour has nothing to do with the skies; it ties this astronomical event to the Earth. The pink moon is named for the pink flower *Phlox subulata*, also known as moss pink, in the family *Polemoniaceae*, which is native to North America and flowers in the spring time.

Each month's full moon has a different name, which vary in different cultures and places. The pink moon was known as the Growing Moon in Celtic cultures.

The Irish moon deity is **Elatha**, one of the Formorian kings.

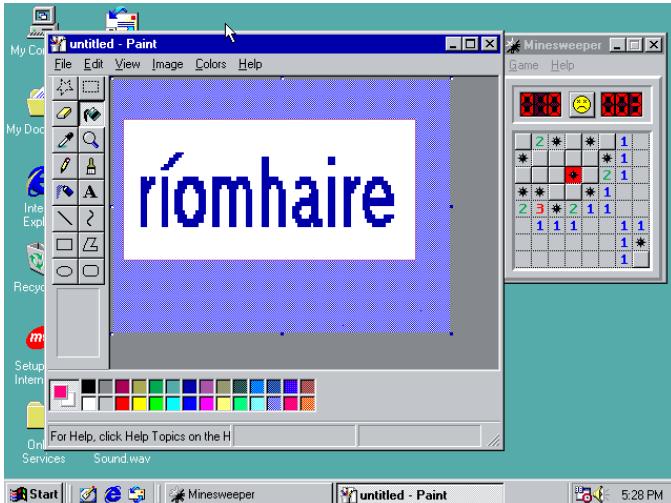


Figure 3: Ríomhaire, past and present

3 ríomhaire

The Old Irish word *rímaire* was used to describe astronomers and human computers, who calculated times and dates and celestial happenings. eDIL (Electronic Dictionary of the Irish Language) notes that it was used as early as the 9th century. This word developed into the modern day *ríomhaire*, which now means computer (it used to mean calculator). The word for astronomer in Modern Irish is *réalteolaí* - a star scientist.

focloir.ie gives the strangely relevant phrase “meascann siad astralaithe le *réalteolaithe*” - they muddle up astrologists and astronomers.

Apaigí: *apogee*; peirigí: *perigee*; sisige: *syzygy*.

Over the mountains, over the sea,
That's where my heart is longing to be,
Please let the light that shines on me,
shine on the ones I love



Figure 4: How far from home are you?

4 tides, times and calendars

The supermoon in April caused higher than usual perigean spring tides, but you only noticed these if your 2 km circle of cocooned existence stretches to the shore.

Supermoons of 2020 and beyond:

- Monday, 9th March 2020
- Wednesday, 8th April 2020
- ~ Thursday, 7th May 2020 (not *as* super or big)
- Tuesday, 27th April 2021
- Wednesday, 26th May 2021
- Tuesday, 14th June 2022
- Wednesday, 13th July 2022

gealach lán // lánghealach - full moon

survival is insufficient

