

The Moon



The moon is part of our solar system and part of the Milky Way galaxy. It is easy to think that the moon is luminous like the sun because it shines so brightly sometimes. The moon is not luminous like the sun, the moon looks bright because it is reflecting light from the sun, not giving off light. As the moon orbits around the earth, it looks like its shape keeps changing, this is because we can only see some of the moon's reflective light. The moon orbits around our earth every 28 days. The moon also turns on its own axis and it takes the same amount of time as it does to orbit once around earth. This is why we only ever see one face or side of the moon. During a 'full' moon, we see the entire half of the moon. The moon is only 1/4 of the size of earth. The moon unlike the earth doesn't have an atmosphere which means there is no air, water or wind. The moon is 384,400 km / 238,900 mi away from earth and it would take almost three days to get there by a spacecraft. The moon is responsible for the ocean tides due to its gravitational pull, yet the moon's gravity is only about 1/6 of the earth's gravity. As you watch the moon each night, you will notice the changing phases as the moon goes through 8(shapes) phases during the period of a month. The moon phases are: a new moon, a waxing crescent, first quarter, waxing gibbous, full moon, waning gibbous, last quarter, waning crescent and back to new moon. These phases of the moon are caused by the moon revolving around earth. In 1969, Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon.