

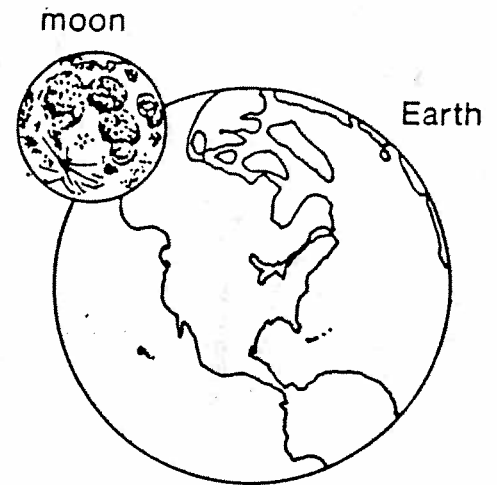
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The moon is Earth's satellite. A satellite is an object that travels around a larger object. The moon travels around the Earth.

The Earth is about four times as big as the moon, our nearest neighbor in space. Because the moon is so close, it appears to be almost as big as the Sun. This is far from true.

The moon looks beautiful from Earth, but it is not a friendly place. Since the moon has such a weak gravitational pull, it has lost its atmosphere. Life, as we know it, cannot breathe on the moon. The moon has no surface air or water. It is made up of hills, mountains, plains, and craters. There are no clouds, wind, or rain so the moon has no weather.

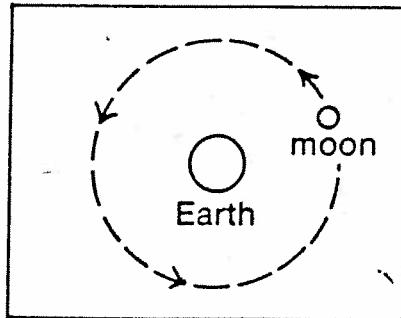
The moon does, however, have temperature. On the side of



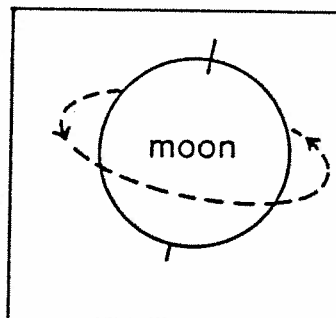
size of moon as compared to Earth

the moon facing the Sun, the temperature may rise to over 250°F (121°C) at midday. Then, because there is no air, the temperature would lose that heat by night and drop to minus 260°F (-162°C) or lower. The moon has no light of its own. Like the Earth, it reflects the light of the Sun.

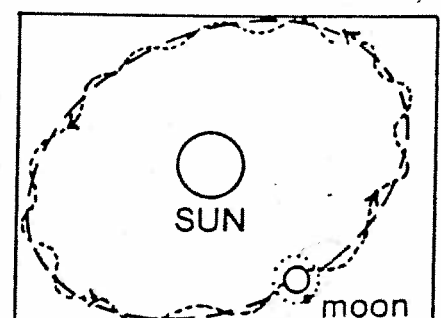
The moon has three kinds of motion.



It revolves around the Earth.



It rotates on its axis.



It follows the Earth in its movement around the Sun.

The moon always keeps the same side facing the Earth. Its period of rotation is the same as its period of revolution around the Earth —about 29 days.