

Next Door Neighbor: The Moon

1. Why doesn't the Moon have an atmosphere?
2. The Moon is littered with craters, but the Earth (which is right next door) is not. Explain why this is the case.
3. The Moon has no surface tectonic activity – but it does have week 'moonquakes.' Explain the favored theory for the origin of these events.
4. The lunar maria are thought to be younger than the rest of the Moon's surface (the highlands). What makes us suspect this? Is there a way to verify this?
5. When and how did the Moon form? List some of the evidence that supports this model.
6. Is there economic incentive to harvest raw materials from the Moon for use on Earth? Can you think of another object in the solar system that might be a better target for exploration, if this is our motivation?