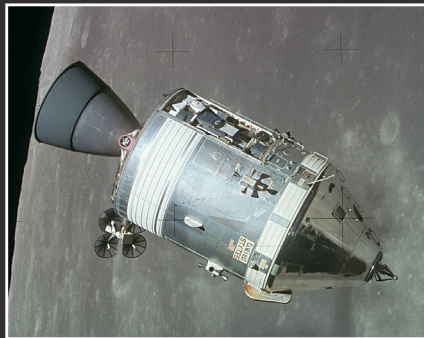


# How Far Away is the Moon?

It's farther than you think!



**Approximately 30 Earths could fit in between our home planet and the Moon.** When we look at the sky and see the Moon, it feels close. But even though the Moon is our nearest neighbor in the solar system, it's still about 380,000 km (240,000 miles) away.



**The Apollo Command Module**

In the 1960s, NASA's Apollo missions to the Moon needed to calculate the exact distance between the Earth and the Moon in order to decide how much fuel spacecraft would need to reach the Moon and make it safely back home to Earth. The Apollo Command Module (shown here orbiting the Moon) used a rocket engine to propel astronauts and their equipment through space. Their trip to the Moon took about 75 hours, but if you and family took the trip in a car it would take about 22 days of nonstop highway travel to reach the Moon!