

*Why does the Moon have craters?*

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Have you ever looked at the Moon through a telescope or binoculars? If you have, you might have noticed that the Moon is covered with round holes! These are craters. Craters are where the Moon's surface has been hit by meteorites. We have craters on Earth too, but a lot less! This is because the Earth's surface is continually replaced by events such as volcano eruptions that lay a fresh coat of rock over the surface, or by rivers that smooth out the crater holes. But the Moon does not have active volcanos or rivers, and craters can remain for billions of years. By counting the number of craters, scientists can estimate the age of the Moon. The more craters, the older the Moon! This method helped reveal that the Moon is roughly 4.5 billion years old. Can you imagine what the Moon might look like in another 4.5 billion years?