

**WHY CAN
YOU SEE
THE MOON
DURING THE DAY ?**

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00:00:01,520 --> 00:00:03,501

Why Can You See the Moon During the Day?

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00:00:06,997 --> 00:00:08,240

We Asked a NASA Scientist.

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00:00:08,240 --> 00:00:12,080

We think of the Moon as a nighttime object because it's often shown that way to us in

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00:00:12,080 --> 00:00:17,280

books and movies. Even the weatherman uses the Sun as a symbol for day and the Moon for night.

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00:00:17,280 --> 00:00:21,680

But the Moon actually spends almost as much time in the daytime sky as the night. You just have

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00:00:21,680 --> 00:00:26,080

to look a little harder to see it. Let's think about why we can see the Moon at night at all.

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00:00:26,080 --> 00:00:30,320

Unlike our Sun, the Moon doesn't create its own light. We can only see it because light from the

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00:00:30,320 --> 00:00:35,600

Sun is reflecting off of its surface. The same is true during the day, and unlike the stars which are

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00:00:35,600 --> 00:00:40,240

also still up there during the day but we can't see them because the sky is too bright, the Moon

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00:00:40,240 --> 00:00:44,535

actually shines bright enough that you can see it day or night as long as it's in the right part of the sky.

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00:00:44,535 --> 00:00:48,640

During a full Moon, the Moon is opposite the Sun in the sky. That's why we can see the

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00:00:48,640 --> 00:00:53,440
full face of the Moon reflecting sunlight. As the Earth rotates, the Moon rises just as the Sun

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00:00:53,440 --> 00:00:58,000
sets, but just on that one day of the month. In the days before a full Moon, if you look in the

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00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:03,120
eastern sky, you can find the almost full Moon rising before the sun sets. And the days after

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00:01:03,120 --> 00:01:07,520
a full Moon, you can look in the western sky and find the Moon setting after the Sun has come up.

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00:01:07,520 --> 00:01:12,000
Over the last year, I've actually made a game of timing my daily bike ride to see if I can spot

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:17,280
it in the daytime sky. But it will keep you on your toes. It sets about 50 minutes later each day as it

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00:01:17,280 --> 00:01:21,966
marches through its phases. So, keep your eyes peeled and keep looking up. Maybe you can spot it, too.