

The Mini Page

Next Week:
Our states:
North Dakota

Issue 12, 2026

Founded by Betty Debnam



photo by NASA/Keegan Barber

Back to the Moon

This spring, four NASA astronauts will venture closer to the moon than humans have been for more than 50 years. This week, The Mini Page learns about the Artemis II mission.

Why go to the moon?

Part of the mission of Artemis II is learning and preparation for Artemis III, during which humans will land on the moon in the next two years.

NASA calls our moon a "4.5-billion-year-old time capsule." When astronauts walked on the lunar surface five times between 1969 and 1972, they collected 842 pounds of rocks and soil and brought the materials back to Earth for further study. Scientists believe the moon was created when Earth made contact with another astronomical body.

Exploration of space and the moon also helped researchers understand other sciences, such as computers, solar energy, semiconductors and navigation.

The Apollo missions also helped people on Earth appreciate the need to protect our planet and work with one another.

This year, NASA will be exploring whether there is water on the moon, which is important

for future missions. Experts will also study how people can travel to the moon for business reasons or for adventure.

During the mission, Orion will fly by the far side of the moon before heading back toward Earth. The mission is expected to last 10 days.

How will they get there?

Orion is NASA's newest spacecraft built for humans. It will be launched into space by the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket.

The capsule where the crew lives can house four people for up to 21 days. Inside, the crew module has a compact toilet and an exercise machine, along with water storage and equipment for food preparation.

The crew module is the only part of Orion that will return to Earth after each mission.

Mini Fact:
NASA's SLS rocket lifts off during a test flight in 2022.



photo by NASA/Frank Michaux

The Artemis II flight crew, from left to right: NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover Jr. and Christina Koch, and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen.

Meet the crew

- **Reid Wiseman** is the commander of the Artemis II mission. He was born in Baltimore and is a 27-year U.S. Navy veteran. He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Johns Hopkins University. Wiseman became an astronaut in 2009. He has two children.

- **Pilot Victor Glover Jr.** is a naval aviator who was chosen to be an astronaut in 2013. He was born in Pomona, California, and holds several master's degrees. He and his wife have four children.

- **Mission Specialist I Christina Koch** also became an astronaut in 2013. She participated in the first all-woman spacewalk. She was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and has a master's degree in electrical engineering.

- **Astronaut Jeremy Hansen** will be the first Canadian to travel to the moon. He was born in London, Ontario, and has led a NASA astronaut training class. He has a master's degree in physics. He and his wife have three children.



photo by NASA/Joel Kowsky

The NASA Space Launch System on the launchpad.



photo by NASA/Mark Sowa

Artemis II crewmembers train inside the Orion spacecraft. During launch and re-entry, the astronauts will be lying on their backs, as shown here.



NASA photo
Astronaut Buzz Aldrin on the moon in 1969.

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Resources



On the Web:

- nasa.gov/mission/artemis-ii/
- go.nasa.gov/4kb2B7U

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Artemis II are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ARTEMIS, ASTRONAUT, CAPSULE, CREW, GLOVER, HANSEN, KOCH, LAUNCHPAD, LUNAR, MISSION, MOON, NASA, ORBIT, ROCKET, ROCKS, SOIL, SPACECRAFT, WATER, WISEMAN.

H	C	O	K	T	U	A	N	O	R	T	S	A	Q	
W	R	A	N	U	L	W	H	A	N	S	E	N	L	R
I	C	C	G	J	J	L	I	O	S	T	I	B	R	O
S	A	D	A	P	H	C	N	U	A	L	Z	F	H	R
E	P	G	R	J	N	O	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	X
M	S	L	T	Y	S	P	A	C	E	C	R	A	F	T
A	U	O	E	N	B	R	G	T	E	K	C	O	R	F
N	L	V	M	D	A	W	A	T	E	R	N	O	O	M
Q	E	E	I	D	N	S	Y	S	K	C	O	R	C	K
T	H	R	S	O	G	Y	A	N	C	R	E	W	D	P

Cook's Corner

Moon Rocks

You'll need:

- 2 cups oats
- 1/2 cup wheat germ
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons water
- 3/4 cup raisins



What to do:

1. Combine the first 6 ingredients in a 9-by-13-inch, microwave-safe pan. Mix well and spread evenly.
2. Pour oil and water evenly on top.
3. Microwave on high 4 minutes. Stir and spread evenly again.
4. Microwave on high 2 to 3 minutes. Let stand until cool.
5. Add raisins and mix well. Makes about 5 cups of granola.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

Mini Jokes



Monroe: Why did the cow go to space?

Miller: To visit the Milky Way!

Martine: How does the moon cut its hair?

Monica: Eclipse it!

Eco Note



Wolves killed a record 2,124 reindeer in Finland last year, alarming herders along the country's long border with Russia.

Many herders suspect the surge is linked to Russia's war on Ukraine, arguing that reduced hunting across the border may be driving more wolves into Finland. Scientists stress that there is not enough evidence to prove a direct connection. Finland's wolf population has grown to about 430 animals and is part of the same subspecies as Russia's much larger wolf population.

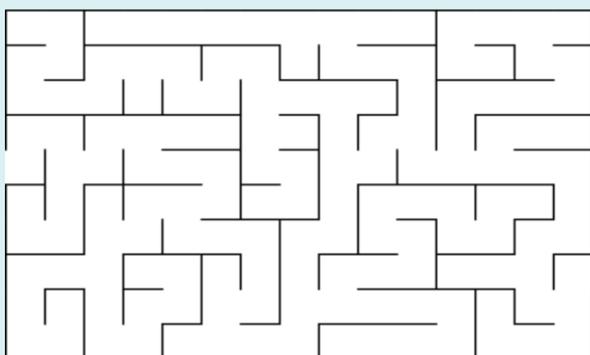
adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your local newspaper for articles about the Artemis II mission.

A-maze-ing!

Help the rocket find its way to the moon!



KidSpot

By Dan Thompson

3-21

What's the word?
Use the clues to unscramble the letters in the first word to make a new word.



- | | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ones | What you smell with |
| 2. Meal | Opposite of female |
| 3. East | Place to sit |
| 4. Hear | Rabbit relative |
| 5. Sire | Go higher |
| 6. Pane | Back of neck |
| 7. Paws | To switch out something |
| 8. Lisp | Fall on ice |

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ANS: 1. NOSE 2. MEAT 3. SEAT 4. HARE 5. RISE 6. NAPE 7. SWAP 8. SLIP