

Millions of Years Older Moon!



Pictured: Moon. **Source:** Canva.

A recently published study has revealed that the Moon could be at least 4.46 billion years old - 40 million years older than originally believed! Researchers analysing samples of moon rock, brought back to Earth by Apollo 17 between 1969 and 1972, say that the Moon is much older than they previously thought. Scientists theorise that zircon crystals contained in the lunar rock samples are a 'key indicator' and show when the Moon must have formed. Professor Philipp Heck, senior author of the new study said it was, 'amazing being able to have proof that the rock you're

holding is the oldest bit of the Moon we've found so far'. Philipp, who also works at Chicago's Natural History Field Museum as curator in charge of the meteorite and physical geology collections, added, 'It's an anchor point for so many questions about the Earth. When you know how old something is, you can better understand what has happened to it in its history.'

Do you know any interesting facts about the Moon?

Were you surprised to hear how old it is believed to be?

Picture News Pupil Journalist Competition Winner!

We are very happy to share an extract of the winning article, written by Daniel O'Flynn. Daniel is aged 11 and has reported on Crathes Primary School's recent mosquito project. Congratulations, Daniel!



Pictured: A mosquito. **Source:** Daniel O'Flynn.

Marvellous Mosquitoes

At Crathes Primary School, the Primary 5-7 class have been learning all about mosquitoes for their topic. They have been outdoor learning with an expert on mosquitoes, called Jill Birch. The project has been supported by the Reece Lab who are doing research on mosquitoes and are based in Edinburgh.

Mosquitoes are insects that live everywhere except Antarctica. They are an important part of the food chain, [...] they carry a deadly disease called Malaria [...] but there are cures. [...]

Did you know a group of mosquitoes is called a cloud and female mosquitoes lay up to 500 eggs in their lifetime?

By Daniel O'Flynn, aged 11, Crathes Primary School.

Did you learn anything new about mosquitoes from Daniel?

Pictured: Daniel O'Flynn. **Source:** Crathes Primary School.

Awesome Alligator



Pictured: 'NYC Legend' by artist Alexander Klingspor. **Source:** Union Square @UnionSquareNY X page.

An impressive sewer alligator sculpture has been unveiled in Union Square Park, honouring a New York City myth that has been around for hundreds of years. The large bronze sculpture of the reptile of legend, called 'NYC Legend', is a life-sized alligator on the back of a manhole cover, created by Swedish artist, Alexander Klingspor. Union Square is a historic intersection and surrounding neighbourhood in Manhattan, New York City, USA, located where Broadway and Fourth Avenue meet. For decades, urban myths have told the tales of alligators being released into the city's underground sewer system when they grew too large for their owners to safely look after them! Union Square declared on their X page, 'We

are thrilled to announce the opening of "NYC Legend" by artist Alexander Klingspor in the Triangle Plaza of Union Square Park! 🖱️ "NYC Legend" is a story about mythology, survival, and resilience. The installation will be on display from October 2023 to June 2024.' Alexander commented on his artwork, saying, 'Stories are the very backbone of human civilisation giving shape to our shared consciousness through sculptures, paintings, and architecture. This piece is a testament to our timeless drive to find icons in nature, and to the bridge that myth builds between the ancient and modern that still echoes today.' **Are there any mythical creatures you would like to create artwork of?**

Last week's topic:

Should speed limits be lowered in your local area?



I don't think that lowering speed limits will make drivers safer. Everyone needs to pay lots of attention around roads in order to stop accidents from happening.

Ali

Yes, slower vehicle speeds will help keep everyone safe!

Gustav

I think that to stop people getting hurt, drivers need to be very careful with their cars. Lowering speed limits is one way to keep people safe.

Mandy

Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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