



In The News

Current Events in Earth & Space Science

Summaries for the Classroom

Two Moons for Planet Earth?

A new theory suggests that, after 80 million years of co-existing, a slow collision between our current Moon and a smaller, second Moon occurred. Is this how the mountains on the far side of the Moon formed?

Articles to Share with Students

Earth had Two Moons, New Model Suggests

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/08/110803-earth-two-moons-collision-space-science/>

E Pluribus Lunum: Did Earth Once Have Two Moons?

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=two-moons-smaller>

Earth May Once Have Had Two Moons

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-14391929>

NPR AUDIO: Early Earth May Have Been Orbiting By Two Moons

<http://www.npr.org/2011/08/04/138954932/early-earth-may-have-been-orbiting-by-two-moons>

General Information

The Moon – NASA Lunar and Planetary Science

<http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/planets/moonpage.html>

Moon – New York Times Science Topics

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/science/topics/moon/index.html>

GRAIL Mission - NASA

<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/grail/home.cfm>

Astrogeology Science Center – The Moon [USGS]

<http://astrogeology.usgs.gov/SolarSystem/Earth/Moon/>

Questions for Classroom Discussion

- How did the Moon form?
- What is the physical evidence that has led scientists to believe there was a second Moon?
- Define how the collision took place and the aftermath.
- How could scientists prove this new idea?
- What is the significance of this idea of there once being a second Moon?

Compiled August 8, 2011, by L.A. Guertin