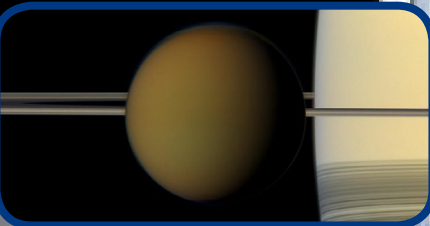


Global Friendship Through Space Education



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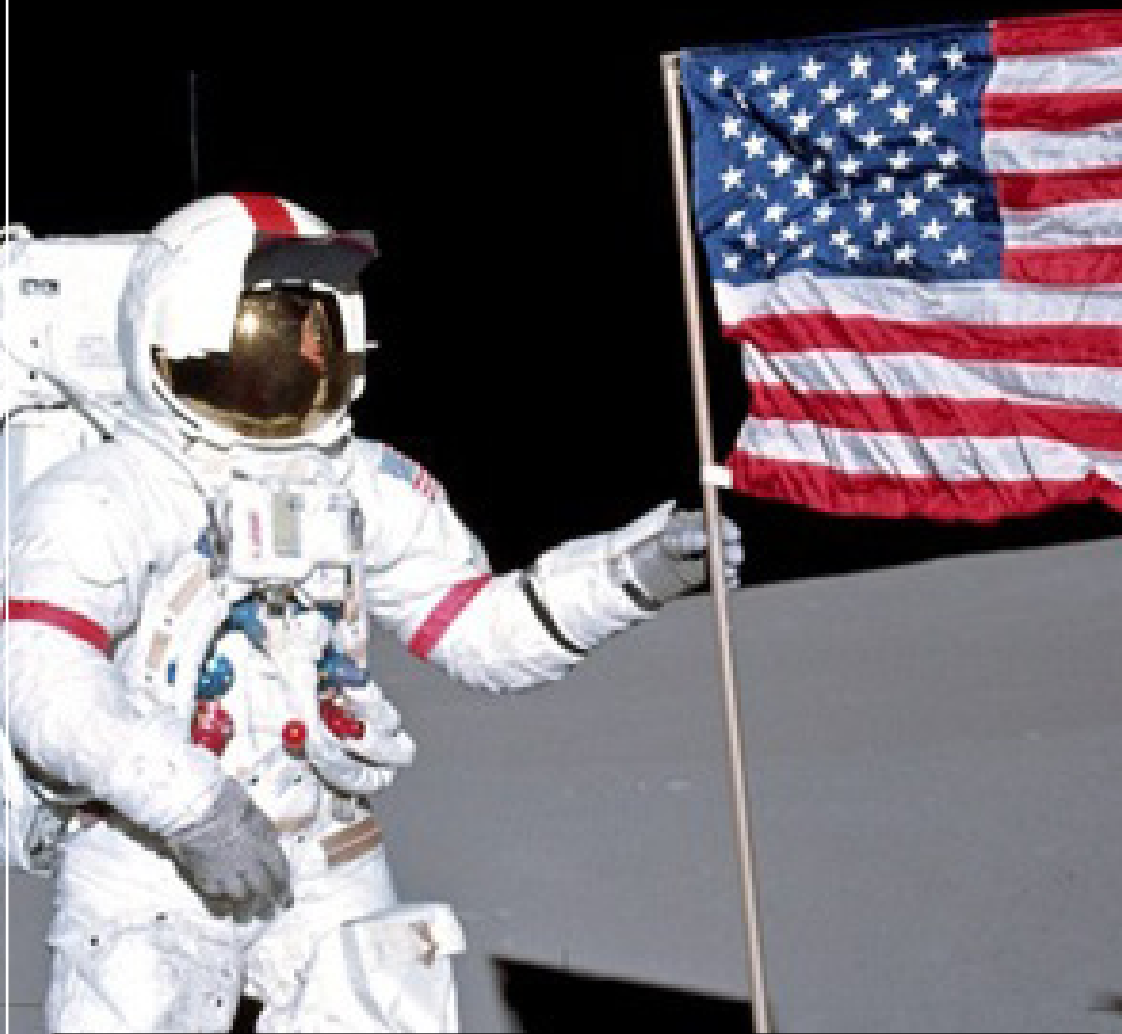
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What's The Weather Like on Titan?

Titan is the largest moon of Saturn, the seventh planet outward from our sun. It's the only moon in our solar system known to have a thick atmosphere, and it's the only known body in space, besides Earth, known to have stable bodies of surface liquid. Titan has a kind of hydrological cycle, much like Earth's, with liquids falling from the sky and flowing across this moon's surface before evaporating back into clouds. Some of the weather phenomena we'd be familiar with on Titan include dust storms and monsoonal rains.

EarthSky.org



50 Years Since Apollo 14: Mission to Fra Mauro

Four billion years ago, an object 150 miles (240 kilometers) wide hit the Moon with such force that it produced one of the largest impact features in the solar system: Mare Imbrium, the Sea of Rains. The cataclysmic impact spewed molten material over hundreds of miles, forming a patch of low hills dubbed Fra Mauro. The first American astronaut and 47-year-old Commander Alan Shepard planted his boots into the powdery lunar soil on Jan, 31 1971 and he became the oldest person to walk on the Moon — a record which still stands some 50 years later.

Astronomy.com

TESS Discovers Four Exoplanets Orbiting a Nearby Sun-Like Star



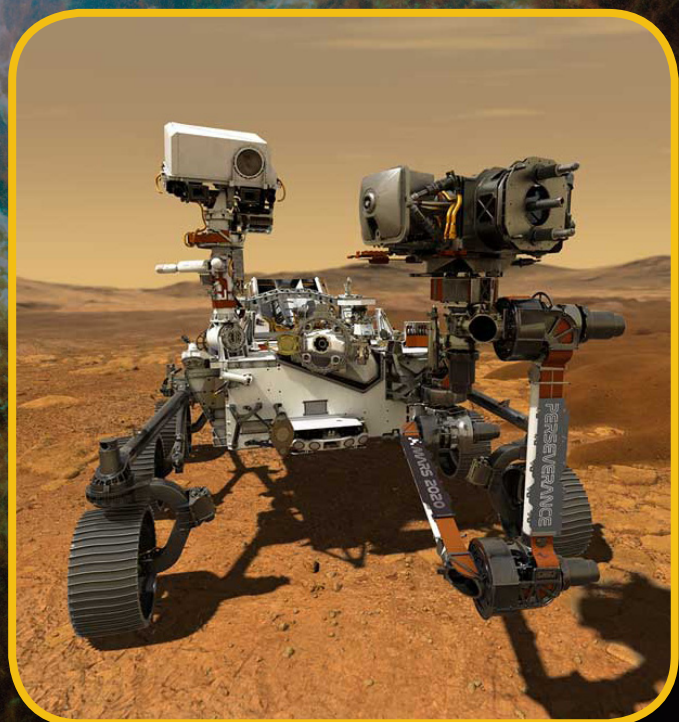
MIT researchers have discovered four new exoplanets orbiting a sun-like star just over 200 light-years from Earth. Because of the diversity of these planets and brightness of their star, this system could be an ideal target for atmospheric characterization with NASA's upcoming James Webb Space Telescope. Tansu Daylan, a postdoc at the MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research, led the study published in The Astronomical Journal.

Technology.org

Countdown For NASA's Perseverance Rover

NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission is just 17 days from landing on the surface of Mars. The spacecraft has about 25.6 million miles (41.2M km) remaining in its 292.5-million-mile (470.8M km) journey and is currently closing that distance at 1.6 miles per second (2.5 kilometers per second).

MarsDaily.com



SpaceX vs NASA: Who Will Get Us to the Moon First?



No one has visited the moon since 1972. But with the advent of commercial human spaceflight, the urge to return is resurgent and generating a new space race. NASA has selected the private company SpaceX to be part of its commercial spaceflight operations, but the firm is also pursuing its own space exploration agenda. To enable flights to the moon and beyond, both NASA and SpaceX are developing new heavy lift rockets: SpaceX's Starship and NASA's Space Launch System.

Phys.org

Startup BluShift Aerospace Launches Its 1st Commercial Biofuel Rocket From Maine

A small rocket billed as the world's first commercial booster powered by biofuel has launched from Maine. The Brunswick-based startup bluShift Aerospace launched its first rocket prototype, called Stardust 1.0, on Sunday (Jan. 31), despite freezing temperatures and two false starts. The rocket didn't reach space (or even a mile up), but marked a major milestone for a company aiming to launch bespoke missions tailored for tiny satellites.

Space.com

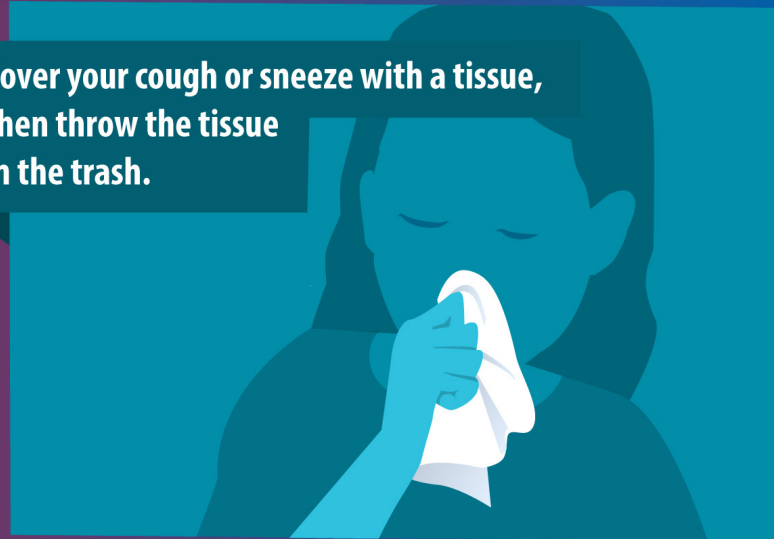


How to Protect Ourselves?

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.





Astronomy Picture of the Day

Lunar Halo over Snowy Trees

Image Credit & Copyright: Göran Strand

Have you ever seen a halo around the Moon? This fairly common sight occurs when high thin clouds containing millions of tiny ice crystals cover much of the sky. Each ice crystal acts like a miniature lens. Because most of the crystals have a similar elongated hexagonal shape, light entering one crystal face and exiting through the opposing face refracts 22 degrees, which corresponds to the radius of the Moon Halo. A similar Sun Halo may be visible during the day. Exactly how ice-crystals form in clouds remains a topic of research. In the featured image taken last week from Östersund, Sweden, a complete lunar halo was captured over snowy trees and rabbit tracks.

apod.nasa.gov



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