

Chp 1 Sec 4

Greeks thought the moon was smooth.

400 years ago scientists started studying the moon more closely.

1609 Galileo Galilei built his own telescope to use to study the moon.

Maria, craters, and highlands

Maria- (latin for seas) Galileo mistook these hardened lava rocks for large bodies of water.

Craters- large round pits on the surface of the moon. Some are hundred of km across. these were created by meteoroids.

Highlands- Mountainous peaks that create the light colored sections of the moon.

The moon is dry and airless. Compared to Earth, the moon is small and has large variations in its surface temperature.

The average distance of the moon is 384,000 km away from the Earth.

The moon's diameter is 3,476 km (1/4 of the Earth's)

Temperatures

highs 130 C

lows -180 C

Moon does not have water, there may be large patches of ice near the moon's poles.

Origins of the Moon

Collision-Ring Theory- An object struck the earth and the debris that broke off became the moon.

Feb 9-7:51 AM