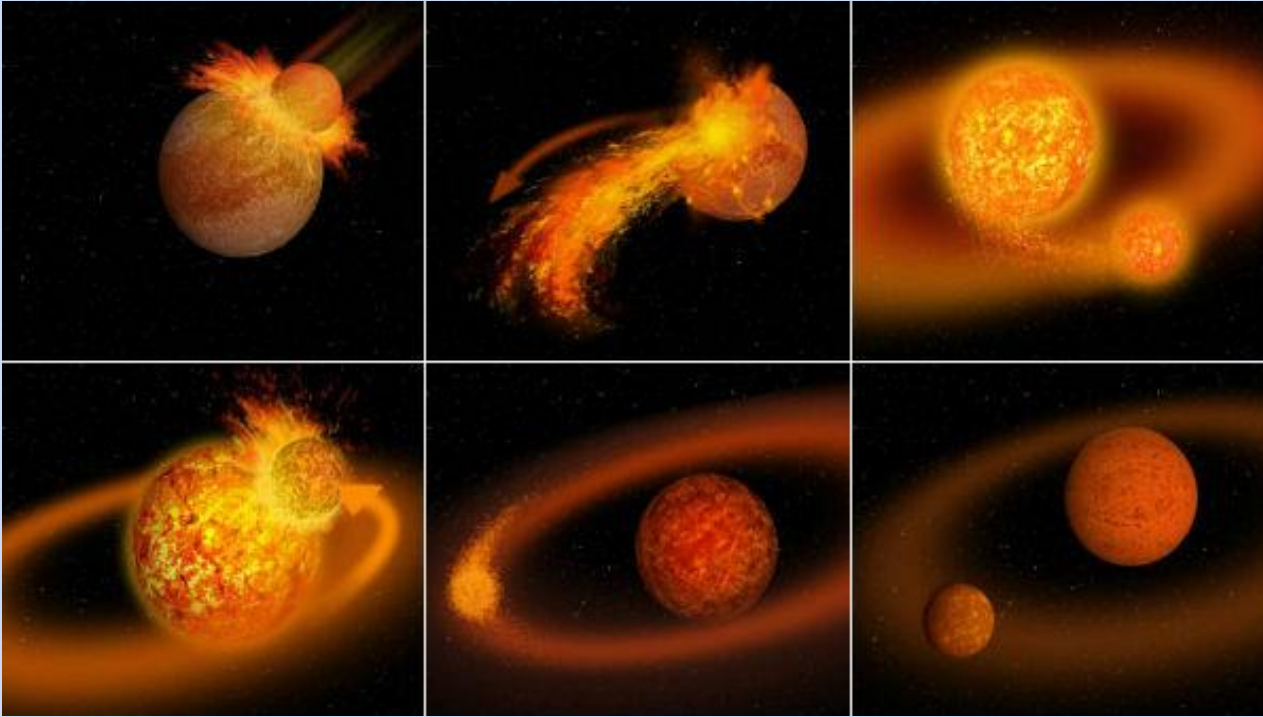


# Chapter 22.3: Earth's Moon

## The giant impact theory:

A theory that states a large “Mars-sized” object collided with the early Earth, started its rotation and the blasted material was sent into orbit around the Earth, which eventually coalesced to form the moon.



# The Moon

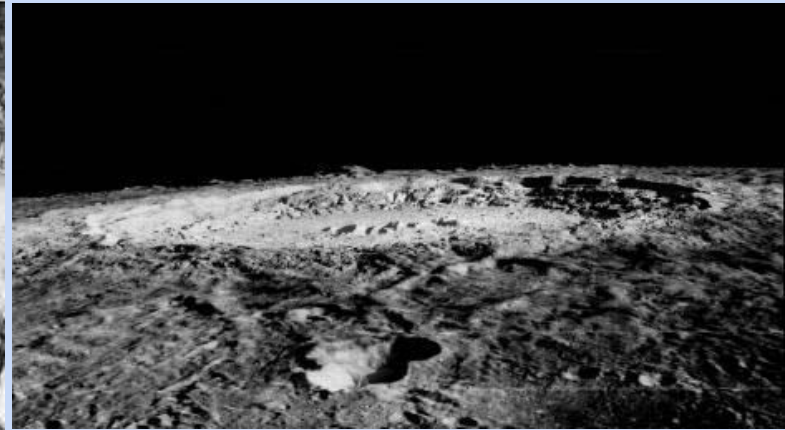
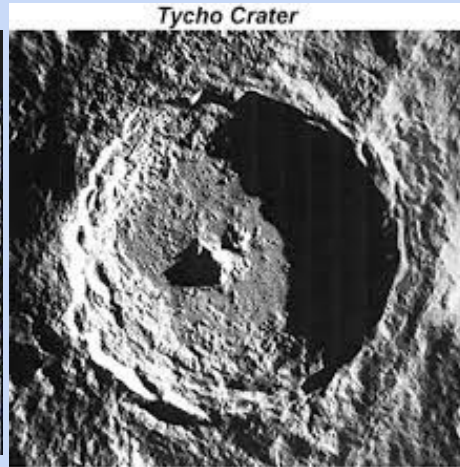
- 384,472km (238,900 miles) from Earth
- 3,475km diameter
- iron core is small
- Reduced gravitational attraction at surface

[Weight on the Moon](#)



**Maria**: dark lowland regions of the moon, ancient basaltic lava flows

**Craters**: round depressions caused by the impact of rapidly moving debris



Other surface features include:

- **Highlands**: densely pitted, light colored areas.
- **Rilles**: long channels that look like valleys or trenches
- **Regolith**: layer of grey debris, composed of rocks, glass beads, and dust

