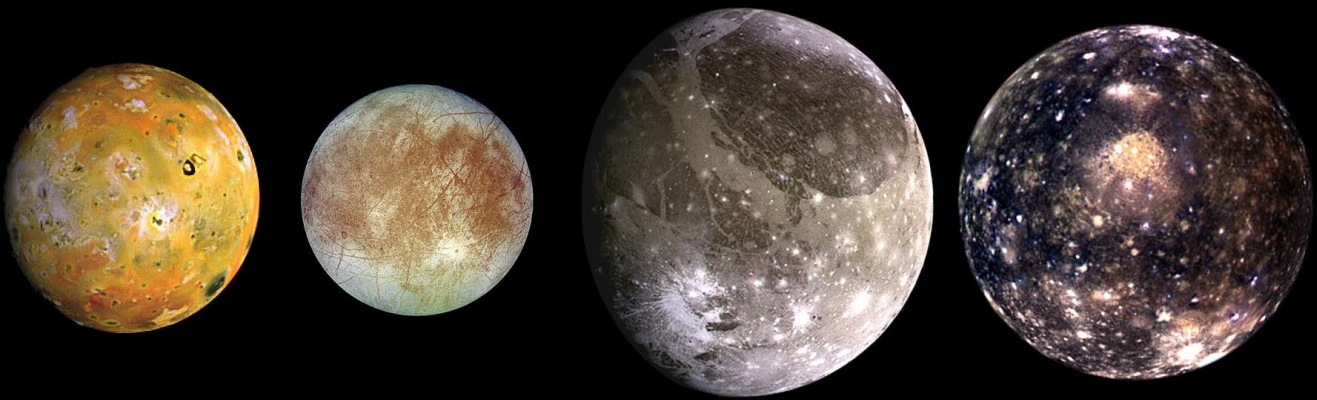


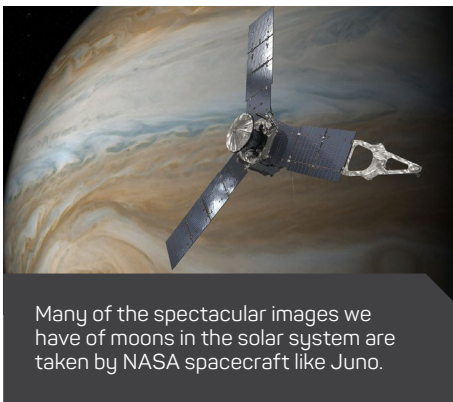
Moons of the Solar System

The solar system contains over 150 moons, some of which might be good places to find life.



These are the four largest moons of Jupiter. Shown from left to right in order of increasing distance from Jupiter: Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto.

LEARN MORE:
jpl.nasa.gov/spaceimages/details.php?id=PIA01299

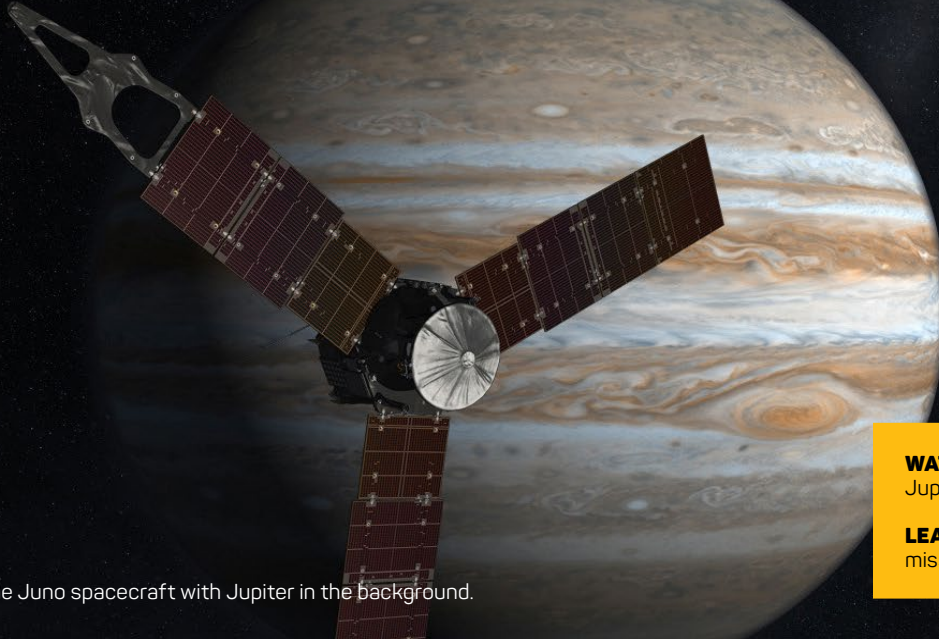


Many of the spectacular images we have of moons in the solar system are taken by NASA spacecraft like Juno.

The moons in our solar system, which include icy and rocky worlds, are exciting places to explore in the quest to find life. Earth's Moon has a lot of company in the solar system. Over 150 moons are known to exist—planets like Jupiter and Saturn have more than 50 moons each—and some might be good places to find life. A NASA mission is in development to visit Europa, a moon of Jupiter. This mission will help scientists better understand the ocean of liquid water that's likely beneath Europa's surface. Because life on Earth originated in the ocean, scientists are excited to

explore Europa's hidden ocean. Other moons in the solar system, like Saturn's moons Titan and Enceladus, may also be good places to look for life. Although very different from these possible ocean worlds, Earth's Moon may have its own stash of frozen water near its southern pole.

Exploring the Solar System



Artist's illustration of the Juno spacecraft with Jupiter in the background.

WATCH Juno's approach to Jupiter: youtu.be/XpsQimYhNkA

LEARN MORE about the Juno mission: nasa.gov/juno

NASA science missions are learning more about the far reaches of our solar system. NASA scientists and engineers work on large teams to plan and execute missions to gather data about the planets, moons, and other objects that make up our solar system. Many people work together to plan and carry out such big projects—from mechanical engineers to planetary geologists. They agree on research goals, design and build tools and instruments for spacecraft, and figure out how to launch the craft and get the data back to Earth. For example, hundreds of people in five countries worked for over 10 years to plan and launch the Juno mission!

NASA's Juno mission is studying the gas planet Jupiter and its moons. Juno is probing beneath the cloud cover to learn more about the planet's origins, structure, atmosphere, and magnetic field. At the end of the mission, Juno will purposely deorbit (crash) into Jupiter to avoid contaminating its moons with microbes from Earth. Scientists don't want Juno to impact any possible alien life—and they don't want researchers in the future to accidentally "discover" what actually came from Earth during a previous expedition!



NASA crew building the Juno spacecraft.



Juno carries a special Lego® crew! Juno's human crew is based on Earth, but mini figures representing the astronomer Galileo Galilei and the Roman gods Jupiter and Juno are aboard the spacecraft.