

Science in the News

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Once in a Blue Moon

Written by Angela Freeman

People changed the way the Moon looks in this photo. They made it look huge and blue.

Also Inside: People Help Animals Come Home



Because May has two full moons, the second one is called a **blue moon**.

What Is a Blue Moon?

A **blue moon** is a special kind of full moon. A blue moon will rise on May 31. But a blue moon does not look blue. It looks gray, just like the Moon on most nights. So what makes a blue moon special?

A blue moon can be the third full moon in a season that has four full moons. Most seasons have only three, so this extra full moon is rare.

A blue moon can also be the second full moon in one month. Most months have only one full moon, so this is rare, too.

The full moon on May 31 will be May's second full moon. It may look gray. But it will still be special! ❖



Is the Moon Ever Blue?

The Moon can look gray, white, yellow, orange, or red. Why?

Sometimes the Moon sits low in the sky. Sometimes the air has dust or smoke in it. These things change how light from the Moon looks to our eyes.

Some photos show a bright blue Moon. Most of these photos are not real. People changed the color in the photo.

But sometimes, the Moon really does look blue. A big fire or a volcano can send smoke or tiny bits of dirt into the air. Then the Moon can look a soft shade of blue. ❖



This is a real photo of a blue moon over a castle in England. It is a blue moon because it was the second full moon in one month. It is called a “blue moon” even though it looks orange. Now you know why!



This kind of bird once lived on the island. People want to bring it back.



All the giant tortoises (TOR-tuss-iz) on the island died. Now, people are bringing them back.



People Help Animals Come Home

This February, people set tortoises free on one of the Galápagos Islands. Tortoises once lived there, long ago.

Back then, people hunted giant tortoises for food. The people also brought animals and plants that did not belong on the island. They brought rats, wild cats, pigs, goats, and cows. Some animals spread across the island and took over. They ate tortoise eggs. They ate baby tortoises. They also harmed other animals that did belong on the island.

One of those animals is a small red-and-black bird. Now, people are helping to fix its home. Soon, this bird can also come back. Other animals can return home, too. ❖