

Earth Day

Lunar exploration changed our view of Earth

Earth Day's origins can be traced to humanity's exploration of the Moon.

It is no accident that the first Earth Day in 1970 occurred a few months following the first Apollo landing in July 1969.

This view of Earth was generated by the Apollo 8 crew when they made their pioneering orbit of the Moon in December 1968.



Seven months later the crew of Apollo 11 captured both "Earthrise" and the ascent stage of the "Eagle" rising off the lunar surface to dock with the Columbia command module.

These images of Earth, captured by lunar explorers, showed our planet hanging in space as a singular home for all humanity.

Inspired by earlier Apollo missions, the crew of Apollo 17 captured yet another iconic image of our home. NASA often uses this view from Apollo 17 to describe Earth as an "isolated ecosystem floating in space."

