

Earth's moon and enceladus: comparison of interiors

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Abstract. Earth's Moon and Saturn's moon Enceladus show many contrasts. Our Moon is the largest in the solar system in relation to its planetary companion, while Enceladus is a relatively tiny object. Despite its size Enceladus has been found to have an active interior, with a South polar hot spot ejecting material into Space. Estimated internal power generation of Enceladus is difficult to explain by either tidal forces or radioactive decay. Enceladus is thought to have a subsurface oceans and is considered a possible home to life. In contrast, Earth's Moon shows no signs of life. Our Moon has recently been found to have a dense core, but appears to be geologically quiet. The many contrasts show a very different origin between Earth's Moon and satellites of outer planets.