

What is the Moon Made Of? (Hint: Not Cheese)

Crust

Oxygen, Silicon, Magnesium, Aluminum, Iron, Calcium, Titanium, Thorium, Potassium, Hydrogen, Uranium

43% Oxygen, 20% Silicon, 19% Magnesium, 10% Iron, 3% Calcium, 3% Aluminum, 0.12% Manganese, 0.18% Titanium

Mantle

Clinopyroxene, Orthopyroxene, Olivine

Similar to Earth's mantle

Contains more iron than Earth's Mantle

Lunar Core

Iron, Sulfur, Nickel

Molten Core 2% of the Moon's mass

Smashy Smashy

Given its chemical similarity to Earth, many researchers think that the Moon formed 4.5 billion years ago, when a large protoplanet smashed into the young Earth. Gravity brought the resulting debris together, eventually forming the Moon.

50/50

Recent research suggests that the moon is roughly a 50-50 mix of materials from Earth and the protoplanet that smashed into it.

Sources:

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