



Reid Wiseman, NASA, 6th April, 2026

PRESENT

This is a photograph taken by Reid Wiseman and posted by NASA, the American space agency, a few months ago, on 6th April, 2026.

DESCRIBE

At first glance, in the foreground, a grey rounded object looks like a planet. Yet its multiple craters and colour suggest it actually is Earth's satellite, the Moon.

This is conformed as the background in the top left corner shows the Earth, or rather, a half-Earth, standing out of the dark/pitch-black background of the cosmos/universe/outer space.

The photo was actually taken not from the moon but probably from a space station or shuttle orbiting the moon.

What is striking here is that it is the exact reverse shot of a well-known perspective: the one taken by ISS astronauts circling the Earth with a half-moon in the background.

PROVIDE CONTEXT + ANALYSE

This was made possible by mission Artemis, launched by NASA this year, which reached the hidden side of the Moon. 3 Americans and one Canadian orbited around it to prepare the next Artemis missions meant to allow humans to walk again on the Moon and, eventually, to build a station on the Moon.

This happened in 1969 for the 1st time but had never happened again since 1972. The USA has recently showed renewed interest in moon exploration.

This space program is obviously meant to further scientific research with missions on the Moon allowing humans to learn more about the universe. Material collection and experiments will allow scientists to expand human knowledge and develop techniques or materials in the future.

Some also claim this mission will become a springboard for travel to Mars and allow to go deeper into outer space. Not only would this push back the frontier of our universe and the frontier of knowledge, but it would also be one more step towards space colonization.

More immediately, it inspires younger and older people to reach for the stars, which I totally understand as this mesmerising picture is truly appealing.