

Forty-fifth anniversary of 'Earthrise' image

December 27 2013



Credit: NASA

Forty-five years ago, in December of 1968, the Apollo 8 crew flew from

the Earth to the Moon and back again.

Frank Borman, James Lovell, and William Anders were launched atop a Saturn V rocket on Dec. 21, circled the Moon ten times in their command module, and returned to Earth on Dec. 27.

The Apollo 8 mission's impressive list of firsts includes: the first humans to journey to the Earth's Moon, the first to fly using the Saturn V rocket, and the first to photograph the Earth from deep space.

As the Apollo 8 command module rounded the far side of the Moon on Dec. 24, the crew could look toward the [lunar horizon](#) and see the Earth appear to rise, due to their spacecraft's [orbital motion](#).

Their famous picture of a distant blue Earth above the Moon's limb was a marvelous gift to the world.

Provided by NASA Image of the Day

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