

SpaceX rocket to crash into the moon

A spent SpaceX rocket is on a collision course with the moon, likely the first time a piece of “space junk” will unintentionally strike the lunar surface

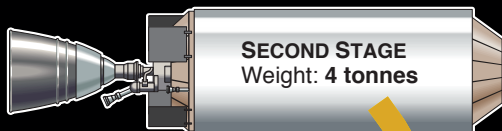
Payload fairing

1 Feb 11, 2015: *Falcon 9* rocket launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, carrying *Deep Space Climate Observatory* satellite on *SpaceX's* first deep space mission

Second stage

2 After completing long burn and sending satellite into space, second stage booster does not have enough fuel to return to Earth

Inter-stage adapter



Derelict vehicle tumbles around in chaotic orbit for seven years

First stage

3 Mar 4: Booster expected to impact far side of moon near equator, at velocity of around 2.58km/s

Exact location of impact uncertain



◀ Iconic image from **Georges Méliès'** 1902 film *A Trip to the Moon*, shows cannon-propelled capsule hitting moon

Observation of subsurface material ejected by collision could provide valuable scientific data