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Although the Moon is itself a dead world, NASA's renewed lunar exploration program opens new opportunities for scientific research of relevance to astrobiology research objectives. For example, the Moon: is the best place to study the bombardment history of the inner solar system; may serve as a repository of early Earth materials in the form of terrestrial meteorites on the lunar surface; offers synoptic views of the Earth useful for calibrating methods for planetary life detection; and, as a sterile environment, is an excellent testing ground for planetary protection technologies. These and other concepts will be reviewed.