

Resources for *Moon Views: Rabbits in the Rocks*

What Do You See in the Moon? Activity

The shapes observed on the surface of our Moon have inspired many beautiful stories in different cultures past and present. The stories about how the Moon formed or changed, or how the feature got there involve rabbits, dogs, crabs, frogs, men, women, gods and goddesses, and more!

In this activity, you and your family will use your imaginations to identify an object or character in the Moon and create a story about it.

What You Need

- A clear night with a good view of the Moon with at least $\frac{3}{4}$ illuminated; a full Moon is preferred
- For your family:
 - Books that share stories from different cultures about the Moon. Visit your local library or search the Internet for books and collections like these:
 - *Moontellers: Myths of the Moon from Around the World*
Lynn Moroney, 1995, Northland Publishing Company, ISBN 0873586018
 - *Dot to Dot in the Sky: Stories of the Moon*, Joan Marie Galat, Whitecap Books, 2004, ISBN 1552856100
- For each story about the Moon:
 - [Image of the Moon](#)
 - Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
 - Extra paper for illustrating stories or story writing

What to Do With Your Family

- As a family, go outside and look at the Moon, or look at [this image of the Moon](#)
- *Ask your family what they see when they look at the Moon.* They may say “dark circles” and “light areas.” *Ask if they can see any figures or characters made up by the features on the Moon. Ask if they have heard any stories about the man or rabbit in the Moon.*
- Together, read a story about the Moon from a different culture. When you are finished, discuss the story. *Did they like the story? What parts did they like the most? The least? Why?*
- *Ask who wants to create their own story about the Moon.* Give at least one “What I See in the Moon” sheet and crayons or markers or colored pencils to everyone who wants to make up a story.
- *Invite them to color the character or person or object they see in the Moon on their sheet.* Do they see a boat? A house? A flower? Cat? Horse? Person? A dragon or dinosaur? Have them share the story of how that object got onto the Moon or why it is there. Stories often start with “A long time ago ...”
- Enjoy the stories together!

Websites for Further Exploration

World Tales of the Moon

www.lpi.usra.edu/education/explore/marvelMoon/tales

There are hundreds of stories about the Moon and its appearance; some are sacred myths, and others are folktales old and new shared for the simple joy of the tale.

NASA's Moon Website

moon.nasa.gov

This website offers information about Earth's Moon including an interactive Moon globe, news about the Moon, lunar missions, a gallery of images, facts and figures, and other resources.

Lunar Science and Exploration Posters

www.lpi.usra.edu/education/moonPosters

This series of three posters from the LPI provides a detailed description of what past and current lunar exploration has taught us about the Moon and how to prepare for future missions to the Moon.

Lunar South Pole Atlas

www.lpi.usra.edu/lunar/lunar-south-pole-atlas

NASA has been directed to land astronauts at the lunar south pole by 2024. To assist NASA and the lunar community, the LPI has compiled an online atlas that consists of a series of maps, images, and illustrations of the south polar region.