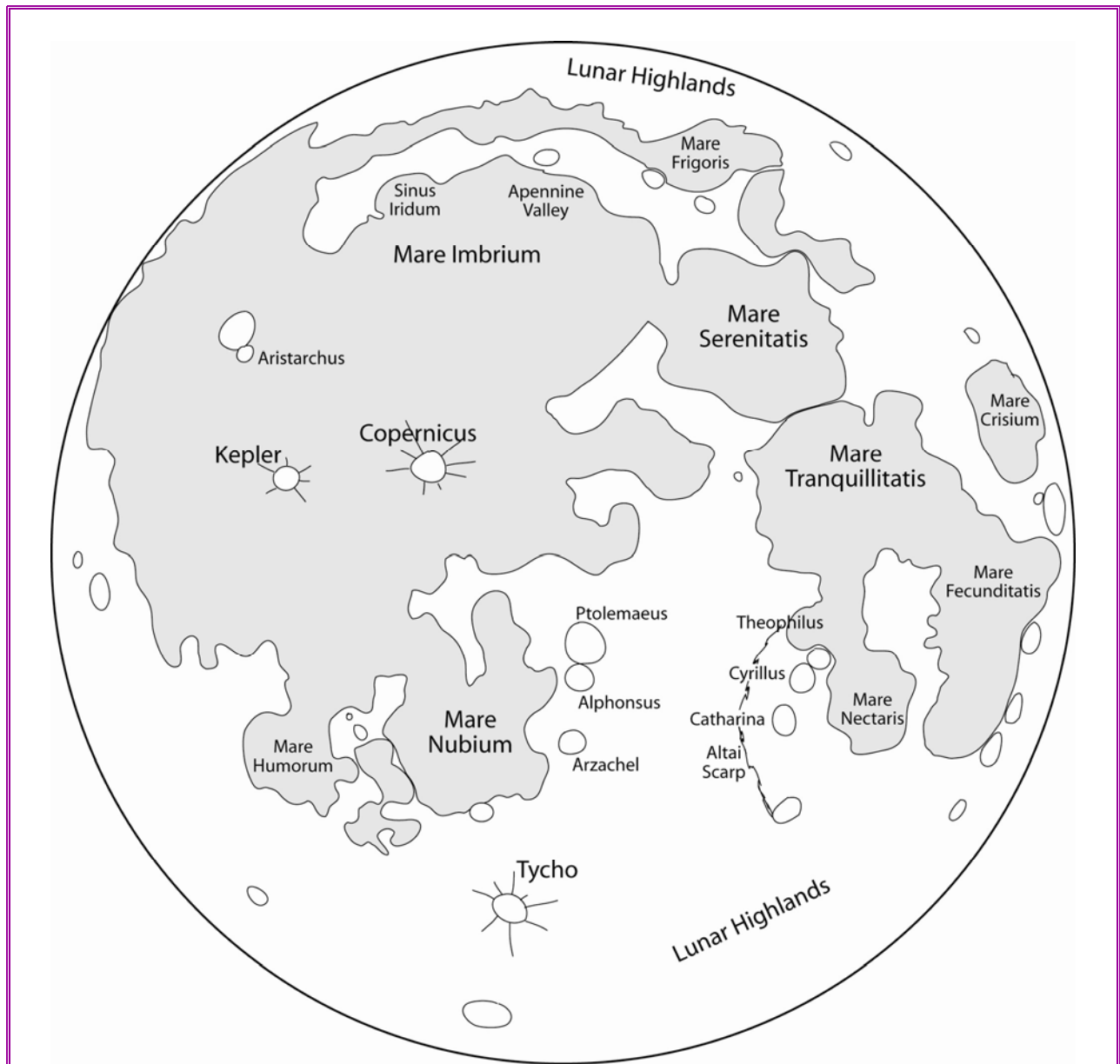


Passport to the Moon


On a night when the Moon is almost full to full, invite your family to go and view the Moon! Take some binoculars, snacks, a blanket to sit on, and some insect spray if the bugs are out at night. Or better yet, contact your local astronomy club to collaborate a night viewing session!




How many of the geographic features can you find on the surface of the Moon? You will not need the binoculars to spot many of them!



Passport to the Moon

A quick look at the Moon in the night sky – even without binoculars - shows light areas and dark areas. Can you find these features? Use the Moon map (above) to help!

Where you see  means that the feature is smaller and you will need binoculars or a telescope.

<p>___ I have seen it!</p>	<p>Sea of Tranquility (Mare Tanquilitatus) – Formed when a giant asteroid hit the Moon almost 4 billion years ago, this 500-mile wide dark, smooth, circular basin is the site of the Apollo 11 landing in 1969.</p>
<p>___ I have seen it!</p>	<p>Sea of Rains (Mare Imbrium) – Imbrium Basin is the largest basin on the Moon that was formed by a giant asteroid almost 4 billion years ago.</p>
<p>___  I have seen it!</p>	<p>Appenine Mountains (Montes Apenninus) – Did you know there are <i>mountain ranges</i> on the Moon? The rims of the craters and basins rise high above the Moon’s surface. Apollo 15 astronauts worked in the shadow of Mons (Mount) Hadley, one of the peaks of the Montes Apenninus. Mons Hadley is over 2 and a half miles high!</p>
<p>___  I have seen it!</p>	<p>Copernicus Crater – A small, bright circle south of Imbrium Basin, with rays spreading up to 500 miles in all directions, marks Copernicus Crater.</p>
<p>___ I have seen it!</p>	<p>Sea of Serenity (Mare Serenitatis) – Apollo 17 astronauts sampled some of the oldest rocks on the Moon from edges of the Sea of Serenity. These ancient rocks formed in the Moon’s magma ocean.</p>
<p>___  I have seen it!</p>	<p>Tycho Crater - A bright star of material stands out on the light-colored lunar highlands of the Moon’s southern half. This is Tycho Crater, a 50 mile wide crater with ejecta rays stretching over 1200 miles.</p>
<p>___ I have seen it!</p>	<p>Lunar Highlands – The lighter areas on the Moon are the lunar highlands. These are the oldest regions on the Moon; they formed from the magma ocean. Because they are so old, they have been hit by impact craters many times, making the highlands very rough.</p>