

Try This!

What Do You See in the Moon?

What You Are Going to Do

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

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, such as “What I See in the Moon” on the next page
- 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 the image of the Moon on “What I See in the Moon”
- *Ask 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!

What I See in the Moon



A long time ago ... _____

Websites for Further Exploration

Ways to Get Involved

Connect to the Moon

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/lprp/>

This site includes paths for inquisitive adults, students, and formal and informal educators to find online resources, information, and opportunities for involvement in lunar science and exploration.

Moon Zoo

<http://www.moonzoo.org/>

Moon Zoo uses about 70,000 high resolution images gathered by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter. Citizen scientists are invited to categorize craters, boulders and more, including lava channels and even all sorts of different spacecraft sitting on the Moon's surface.

Moon Mappers

<http://cosmoquest.org/mappers/moon/>

This citizen science effort invites the public to help map the history of the Moon, one crater at a time.

World Tales of the Moon

<http://mymoonspace.com/tales>

Want to hear more stories about the light and dark areas on the Moon? Listen to Moon stories from China, Algeria, and other countries told by professional storytellers!

Windows to the Universe: The Earth's Moon

http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/moons_and_rings.html

This site shares information about our Moon's features, geology, and history, in English and in Spanish. The information is presented at three levels, for ages 8 and older.

Solar System Exploration: The Moon

<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/profile.cfm?Object=Moon>

This website, suitable for ages 12 and up, offers information including headline news about the Moon, lunar missions, a gallery of images, facts and figures, and activities.

The Center for Lunar Science and Exploration

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/nlsi/index.shtml>

This NLSI team site includes background science information, images, the traveling exhibits, high school research projects, and more.

Moon Poster: The Evolution of Our Moon

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/moonPosters/Poster1/backb.pdf>

This is a description of the stages on lunar geologic evolution, written for teens to adults.

PSRD: Unraveling the Origin of the Lunar Highlands Crust

<http://www.psrhawaii.edu/Sept10/highlands-granulites.html>

How did the light areas on the Moon form? This article contains detailed scientific information written at a high level for public adult audiences.

PSRD: The Surprising Lunar Maria

<http://www.psrhawaii.edu/June00/lunarMaria.html>

What's so surprising about the rocks that make up the dark areas on the Moon? This article contains detailed scientific information written at a high level for public adult audiences.

Books for Further Exploration

**Check out
Your Library**

There are several sections to look for information about the Moon in your local library; you may want to start with these sections:

- 398.2 Legends/ Myths
- 523.3 Moon / Astronomy
- 525 Earth and Moon
- 559.91 Lunar Geology

What the Moon is Like (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science, Stage 2)

Franklyn M. Branley, HarperTrophy, 2000, ISBN 0064451852

The lunar environment is explored for children ages 4-8. Hands-on activities allow the children to learn more about lunar features.

Moontellers: Myths of the Moon from Around the World

Lynn Moroney, 1995, Northland Publishing Company, ISBN 0873586018

Colorfully illustrated stories from indigenous tribes around the world will engage readers ages 9–13. Parents will enjoy reading stories to younger children.

Keepers of the Night: Native American Stories and Nocturnal Activities for Children

Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac, 1994, Fulcrum Publishing Co., ISBN 1555911773

Native American sky stories, including ones about the Moon, lunar and solar eclipses, and day and night are accompanied by activities and tips on how best to present them.

In the Light of the Moon: Thirteen Lunar Tales from Around the World Illuminating Life's Mysteries

Carolyn McVickar Edwards, 2003, Da Capo Press, ISBN-10: 156924443X

For ages 10 and up, *In the Light of the Moon* presents thirteen lunar tales from around the world. Stories in the book come from many different cultures including Australia, Britain, ancient Egypt, the Maya, Korea, Polynesia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, India, and the Amazon, and others.

Earth and the Moon

Ron Miller, 21st Century, 2003, ISBN: 0761323589

Written for young teens, this book examines the theories of the Moon's formation, and the complex relationship between the Earth and Moon.

The Moon and How to Observe It

Peter Grego, 2010, Springer, ISBN: 1852337486

A book for practical amateur astronomers who not only want to observe, but want to know the details of exactly what they are looking at. Includes observation guides, photos, and clear explanations of the Moon's geological evolution.

The Modern Moon: A Personal View

Charles Wood, 2003, Sky Publishing Corporation, ISBN: 0933346999

The perfect companion to lunar telescope viewing. Wood works his way across the lunar surface, identifying features of scientific importance and the people involved in unraveling their story.