

Objective Concepts (moon, silent, temperature of the Moon, craters, orbit, Armstrong & Aldrin, Apollo 11, atmosphere, button, million, eclipse, solar, lunar, flickering, glow); Sight words (moon, shimmers, shadow)



Vocabulary	
moon	shadow
shimmers	

The Moon

By: Sue Peterson

The Moon goes around the Earth. This is called an “orbit”. The same side of the Moon always faces the Earth. It takes one month for the Moon to go around the Earth. The Moon is a little more than 200,000 miles from the Earth. It is about $\frac{1}{4}$ the size of the Earth. That means the Earth is four times larger than the Moon.

The Moon is a dry land that has millions of craters with rocks and dust. The surface of the Moon is covered with about two inches of dust. The Moon has

no air or atmosphere around it, so it does not stay as comfortable and warm like the Earth. The temperature on the Moon is -170° F at night which is very cold, but it is 265° F during the day which is very hot. The hottest temperature on Earth is about 130° F, so the Moon can get over twice as hot!

If you stood on the Moon, the sky would look dark even in the daytime! That is because there is no air or atmosphere. There is also no sound because sound waves go through the air. The Moon is silent. There is no wind, rain or any other type of weather on the Moon.

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were astronauts who flew on the Apollo 11 rocket and landed on the Moon. They were the first people to walk on the Moon on July 20, 1969. They and other astronauts have taken Moon rocks to study from their trips to the Moon. Scientists found that the Moon rocks are similar to the rocks on Earth. Moon rocks are very old, about 4 billion years old.

This is how you write 4 billion:

4,000,000,000

Most scientists think the Moon was made after the Earth hit something in space. A large chunk of the Earth broke off and that became the Moon. Scientists think this happened 60 million years after the Earth was formed. This is how you write 60 million:

60,000,000

The Moon sometimes shimmers at night when we look up at the night sky and the Moon. “Shimmer” means to shine softly or with a flickering light or glow. The Moon does not shine by its own light, but by light from the Sun. We see the Moon because the Sun is shining on it.

Sometimes the Moon passes between the Sun and the Earth. When the Moon’s shadow falls on the Earth we see

some parts of the Sun covered by the Moon. This is called a “solar eclipse”. This happens about two times a year.

When the Moon passes through the Earth’s shadow and the shadow blocks the sun’s light from hitting the Moon, that is called a “lunar eclipse”. We don’t see part or all of the Moon during a lunar eclipse. These happen a few times a year, too.



Practice

Language Work

A. Fill in the blank and spell.

moon m _ _ _ n _____

shimmer s h _ _ m m _ _ r _____

shadow s h _ _ d _ _ _ _____

B. Use each word in a sentence. Underline the word used.

moon _____

silent _____

eclipse _____

orbit _____

C. Matching. Draw lines between the words and their meanings.

atmosphere	hole shaped like a bowl
billion	a complete circle; a path
million	1,000,000,000
solar eclipse	1,000,000
lunar eclipse	the air around the earth
crater	partial hiding of the sun by moon
orbit	partial hiding of the moon by sun

Multiple-Choice Questions (Put an X in front of the correct answer.)

1. According to the article, which **8** of these describe the moon:

- a. dry land
- b. wet land
- c. land with craters
- d. land without craters
- e. land of rocks and dust
- f. land without rocks and dust
- g. orbits around the Earth
- h. orbits around the Moon
- i. no atmosphere
- j. no sound
- k. more than 2,000 miles from the Earth
- l. more than 200,000 miles from the Earth
- m. about $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of the Earth
- n. about $\frac{1}{4}$ the size of the Earth

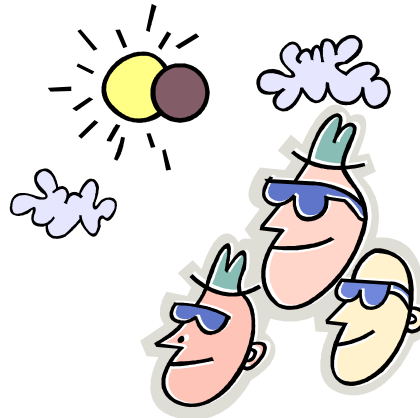
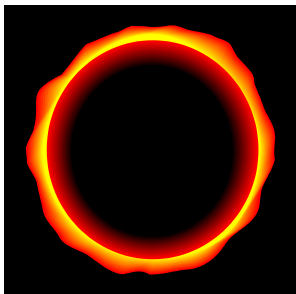
2. How old are moon rocks? (**Two** answers are correct.)
- a. 1 billion years old
 - b. 2 billion years old
 - c. 4 billion years old
 - d. 1,000,000,000 years old
 - e. 2,000,000,000 years old
 - f. 4,000,000,000 years old
3. The author writes about the moon and says, “The Moon **shimmers** at night sometimes when we look up at the night sky and the Moon.” What two other things listed below shimmer?
- a. a metal like silver
 - b. black clothing
 - c. water in sunlight
 - d. dark clouds

Extended Response (Answer in complete sentences.)

1. Why is July 20, 1969 important for the history of space exploration?

2. When do scientists think the Moon was made and how was it formed?

3. Explain a solar eclipse.



Answer Sheet

Answers for Multiple-Choice Questions and Extended Response

The Moon

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. a, c, e, g, i, j, l, n
2. c, f
3. a, c

Extended Response (accept reasonable answers.)

1. It is the day when man first walked on the moon.
2. The Earth hit something to form the Moon. This happened 60 million years after the Earth was formed.
3. A solar eclipse is when the Moon covers up the Sun and you can't see some or all of the Sun. It becomes dark for a certain amount of time.