

Moon Writing Prompts

NSTA Connections

<http://www.nsta.org/publications/news/story.aspx?id=51721>

Reporting Observations Made:

What properties of the Moon can be observed and described?

- Did the Moonrise occur before or after Sunrise today?
- How long was the Moon up today?
- Was the Moon mostly visible during the daylight hours or nighttime hours today?

Organizing Observations:

How would you describe the Moon's pattern of movement in the sky?

- Did the Moon stay in the same place in the sky all night long?
- Was the Moon in the same place at dusk two weeks ago--last week and last night?

Applying What Has Been Learned:

Based on what you observed, predict what will happen tomorrow?

- When and where do you think the Moon will rise tonight?
- What will the Moon's shape be tonight?
- (After seeing the Moon one day at lunch) Where do you think the Moon will be at the end of school today?

Checking Predictions:

How do the data compare to your predictions?

- Were your predictions about last night's Moonrise correct?

Making Generalizations:

Based on your observations and thoughts about the Moon, what rules have you discovered about the Moon's behavior?

- What properties of the Moon change over the course of one day?
- What properties change from one day to the next?
- How does the Moon change over the course of a month?
- What properties stay the same over the course of one day?
- How does the location of Moon and Sun relative to each other affect the Moon's shape?

Moon Story



Name_____

Date_____

Period_____

Every culture in the world has their own collection of original myths, legends, and stories. If you compare one culture's myths to another, you can begin to identify common threads. One of these threads includes Moon stories. There are an unlimited amount of Moon stories from cultures all over the world. Many of these stories are designed to tell people why the Moon does certain things. Often the Moon in the story has a personality. It may have a name and act like a person. It may be evil or good. Some stories involve characters that interact with the Moon. These characters may be people but they often include animals that talk. Moon stories have been with us for as long as people have been telling stories. During the Moon project you will be sharing Moon stories with other students from other countries and cultures.

Step 1

You need to share a Moon story from your country with your discussion group. Since we live in North America, we will be looking at Native American Moon stories. Read a story to your class from the books provided. Write the title and author of the story you read on the following line:

Step 2

Now it is your turn to write your own Moon story. Your story must involve the Moon as a character and must explain why the Moon does a particular thing. For example, your story may explain how the Moon got into the sky. Or it may explain why a particular animal looks the way it does (because of something that happened between it and the Moon!). You are limited only by your imagination. What question are you going to answer with your Moon story? Write it on the following line.

Step 3

Write your Moon story! The final copy must be:

- One page long, typed, 12 point font.
- Explain a natural phenomenon.
- Turn in a copy of your story and get it approved.
- Post the story online with your discussion group.

Moon Story Rubric



TRAIT ONE

Preparation

- _____ Read at least one other Moon story from a native culture.
- _____ Identified a question to explain within the story.
- _____ Turned in the completed "Moon Story" paper.
- _____ Story pre-approved.

TRAIT TWO

Written Expectations

- _____ Paper is typed, double-spaced, 12 font.
- _____ Font Times New Roman or pre-approved, neat appearance, organized.
- _____ Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- _____ Correct margins: top and bottom 1", sides 1.25"
- _____ Story is posted with the discussion group.

TRAIT THREE

Story Line

- _____ Story has a plot that involves a problem that needs to be solved.
- _____ The characters are well defined and the Moon is one of the characters.
- _____ The story explains why a natural phenomena occurs.
- _____ The main idea is clear to the reader.

TOTAL PTS: _____ / 52

Scale:

- 4 Excellent
- 3 Proficient
- 2 Limited
- 1 Missing