

BACK TO NATURE



at Adventure Aquarium

www.aquaticsciences.org

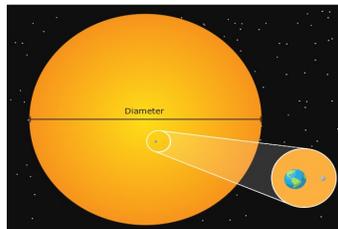
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To the Moon

Light up the night sky

The moon is the largest and brightest object in the night sky. Scientists believe that the moon formed when a large rock slammed into the earth millions of years ago. It rotates around the earth and it help keeps the earth from wobbling which helps create our climate. Its gravitational influence produces the ocean tides, and the slight lengthening of the day.

From Earth, both the Sun and the Moon look about same size. This is because the Moon is 400 times smaller than the Sun, but also 400 times closer to Earth. The moon has a diameter of 2,158.6 miles.



(A trip from Adventure Aquarium in Camden NJ to Salt Lake City, Utah is 2,144 miles.)

Craters are caused by space rocks crashing into the moon millions of years ago. The surface on the moon doesn't change because there aren't any volcanos or quakes. Although, scientists at NASA believe that the moon experiences its own version of quakes, they are just less than those we have on Earth. Also, on the moon there isn't any wind or rain to erode and change the surface like on the earth.

[Visit NASA's website for more information on the moon.](#)

Take a photo of your moon journal and share on Facebook and Instagram using these hashtags:

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Go Outside

Each month has one night with a full moon ([full lunar calendar](#)) but the moon is interesting every night. Have your children take a look at the moon each night and make observations. You can use something like this [moon journal](#) template. Each night go out when the moon is visible and sketch what the moon looks like.

Does it follow the pattern below?



Moonlight Mating



Horseshoe crabs, found along the Eastern coast of USA, mate during the full moons of May and June. A female horseshoe crab can lay up to 120,000 eggs in one season! Horseshoe crabs have been on the planet for 400 million years and have hardly changed.

Recently, their numbers have been declining but people are trying to help. Many organizations and volunteers flock to the Eastern coast, especially the Delaware Bay, to survey the numbers of mating horseshoe crabs, and to help tag them. Our CAUSE (Community And Urban Science Enrichment program) interns go each year to help! We partner with the American Littoral Society to tag and count them. For more information on how you can help with the census next year [visit their website](#).



A moon by any other name will still shine as bright

Ancient cultures would give names to the Moon according to events that happened around the same time. For example, August is called Sturgeon Moon because of the abundance of sturgeon in the lakes that time of year. [Check here for each month's name](#).

