



STATEWIDE STAR PARTY

TOAD IN THE MOON

Activity Instructions

<http://www.ncsciencefestival.org/starparty/>

OBJECTIVE

Learn what different cultures have seen in the Moon and create your own story.

SUGGESTED AGE RANGE

Ages 8 and up

ACTIVITY DURATION

7-10 minutes

MATERIALS

- Family instruction sheet
- Moon story sheets
- Worksheets with image of the full moon (save one to make more copies as needed)
- Colored pencils

SETTING

Indoor drop-in station or classroom

CREDIT

This activity is adapted from one created and written by Suzanne Gurton for the Family ASTRO program from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, www.astrosociety.org

BACKGROUND

There are as many stories about patterns on the face of the Moon as there are cultures who have looked at it. This activity explores cultural connections to the Moon by introducing participants to the variety of characters seen there by different cultures and by inviting them to create their own characters and stories.

This activity was designed for families, but it can also work with individuals or with students in a classroom. It can be facilitated or set up as a drop-in station.

PREPARATION

Make more photocopies of materials as needed, especially the worksheets. On a table, provide the family instruction sheet, at least one of the moon story sheets, multiple copies of the worksheet with the image of the full moon, and colored pencils.

PROCEDURE

1. Ask participants to take a look at a story sheet on their table. In each story, the storyteller used the light and dark spots on the face of the full moon to create the character(s) in their story.
2. Invite the participants to read the story together.
3. Have them look at the image of the full moon on the worksheet.
4. Invite them to outline a character or characters that *they* see when they look at the Moon, and to write their own story about how the character(s) got there. The characters can be modern or mythical, and personal to them or not.
5. Invite participants to take their drawings and stories home with them. Or you can offer to tape them up at your event to share with others.



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