

What is the Moon? – Level 3 Cloze activity. Name _____

sphere	through	system	Moon	humans	werewolves	
mentally	scientific	myths	medium	measure	shape	ancient

Ever since the very earliest times, _____ have looked up into the night sky and wondered “what is that glowing thing?” Naturally people started to attach mysterious stories to it. After all it does move _____ the sky, it has strange blotches all over it and it changes shape all the time. Some cultures learned to _____ time using the Moon’s cycles, but many more made it a god or mythical character. Some _____ Greeks thought that the moon was the home of the dead, and early Hindus from India believed that the souls of the dead returned to the moon to await rebirth. The Tartars of Central Asia called it the Queen of Life and Death. In the Māori legend *Ko Rona me te Marama*, the Moon is able to snatch a woman, Rona, away and even fall in love! The Romans named the Moon ‘Luna’ – a name we still use today in English – ‘Lunar cycles’ for example. In western cultures the Moon is attached to stories about _____ and people losing their minds during the full Moon. Up until the mid-20th century, doctors still talked about ‘lunatics’ when referring to _____ ill patients. These days we use the word to describe someone behaving recklessly.

Modern _____ understanding of the Moon tells us that it is just a big airless _____ of rocks and dust that orbits the Earth and reflects light from the Sun. The blotches are impact craters and it changes _____ depending on what angle we see it from. Our Moon is still quite remarkable though. While it’s only the 5th largest Moon in the Solar system, it is by far the largest in proportion to its host planet. It’s actually quite a bit bigger than Pluto! Also, the Moon flies in an almost perfect circle around the Earth – not what scientist would expect when such a large moon is paired with a _____ sized planet such as ours. Most large planets ‘capture’ their moons because of their sheer mass – they’re so big that other things in the solar _____ are attracted into orbits around them. This doesn’t seem likely for Earth – we’re too small! There are some different ideas about why we have such a large moon, and how it was formed. One popular idea is that a large mass about the size of Mars hit the Earth in its very early formation and knocked out a lot of planetary material which became the Moon.

We have put aside the ancient _____ and legends about the Moon, and know more about it than we ever have before. Happily though, there are still plenty of mysteries to be solved about the Moon and its creation. Perhaps you could be one of those who looks up and wonders – “what is the _____ – how did that get there?”



What is the Moon? - Comprehension:

(you are allowed to re-read the story)

1. In which country did people believe the Moon was the home of the dead?

2. What is the Māori name for the Moon? _____ (Think about it)

3. What is the moon actually made of? _____

What are the 'blotches' on the Moon? _____

4. The Moon is the biggest moon in the solar system: True / False

5. Name 2 planets other than Earth mentioned in this article _____ & _____

6. Grammar: What is the difference between 'a moon' and 'the Moon'?

7. Why does the Moon appear to glow? _____

8. Who named the Moon 'Luna'? _____

9. Find the definition of the word 'orbit': _____

10. Higher level thinking: 'The Moon' isn't a very exciting name. What could be a more interesting one? (P.S. Jupiter already has over 60 moons named, so be careful!)



Read more: <http://www.mythencyclopedia.com/Mi-Ni/Moon.html#ixzz3Z1r1w9ZD>

Extra for experts: Look up the story of *Rona and the Moon - Ko Rona me te Marama* to see how Māori legend deals with the Moon.

More random facts:

- Early astronomers looking at the moon thought that the darker areas, or blotches were oceans. In fact, those areas still keep the names given to them - the moon-lander *Eagle* came down in the *Mare Tranquillitatis* or 'Sea of Tranquility'.
- In a survey conducted in 1988, 13% of those surveyed believed that the moon is made of cheese.

What is the Moon? – Level 3 Cloze activity. **Answers**

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