Name: _____ Date: _____

A Black Sky Above the Moon

Circle group

On Earth, the daytime sky is blue. The blue comes from our air. Air spreads the sun's light around. We see blue all over the sky.

The Moon has no air to speak of. Nothing spreads the light. So the sky above the Moon is black, even in the day.

The sun is still bright there. The ground shines in the sunlight. But the sky looks as dark as night.

Imagine you stand on the Moon at noon. You see a bright sun and a black sky. You see our blue Earth in the dark, too.

Questions

1. What color is the daytime sky on Earth?

_____

_____

2. What spreads the sun's light around on Earth?

_____

_____

3. What color is the sky above the Moon in the day?

_____

_____

4. What can you see in the dark sky from the Moon?

_____

_____

5. Why is the Moon's sky black when the sun is up?

_____

_____

Words to know

spread: to send out in every direction
daytime: the part of the day when it is light
imagine: to make a picture in your mind

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Black Sky Above the Moon

Triangle group

On Earth, the daytime sky is blue. The blue comes from our air. Air spreads the sun's light around, and the blue light is spread the most. So we see blue all over the sky.

The Moon has no air to speak of. There is nothing to spread the light. So the sky above the Moon is black, even in the daytime.

The sun is still very bright there. The ground gleams in the sunlight. But when an astronaut looks up, the sky is as dark as night.

Imagine standing on the Moon at noon. You could see the bright sun and a black sky at the same time. You could also see our blue Earth hanging up in the dark.

Questions

1. What color is the daytime sky on Earth?

_____

_____

2. What spreads the sun's light around on Earth?

_____

_____

3. What color is the sky above the Moon in the daytime?

_____

_____

4. What could you see hanging in the dark sky from the Moon?

_____

_____

5. Why does the Moon have a black sky when the sun is up?

_____

_____

Words to know

spread: to send out in every direction
gleams: shines with a bright light
daytime: the part of the day when it is light
imagine: to make a picture in your mind

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Black Sky Above the Moon

Square group

On Earth, the daytime sky looks blue. That color comes from our air. The air scatters the sun's light in every direction, and blue light is scattered the most, so we see blue stretched across the whole sky.

The Moon has no air to speak of, so nothing scatters the light there. As a result, the sky above the Moon is black, even in the middle of the day.

The sun is still dazzlingly bright, and the ground gleams in its glare. Yet when an astronaut looks up, the sky is as dark as it is at night.

Imagine standing on the Moon at noon. You could see the bright sun and a black sky together, and you could also see our blue Earth hanging in the darkness.

Questions

1. What color is the daytime sky on Earth?

_____

_____

2. What scatters the sun's light in every direction on Earth?

_____

_____

3. What color is the sky above the Moon during the day?

_____

_____

4. What could you see hanging in the darkness from the Moon?

_____

_____

5. Why does the Moon have a black sky even when the sun is up?

_____

_____

Words to know

gleams: shines with a bright light
daytime: the part of the day when it is light
imagine: to make a picture in your mind

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: A Black Sky Above the Moon

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: A Black Sky Above the Moon

Easier · 96 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.2

1. Blue.
2. The air.
3. Black.
4. Our blue Earth.
5. The Moon has no air to spread the light.

Triangle: A Black Sky Above the Moon

This passage · 121 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. Blue.
2. The air.
3. Black.
4. Our blue Earth.
5. The Moon has no air to spread the light around.

Square: A Black Sky Above the Moon

Harder · 128 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. Blue.
2. The air.
3. Black.
4. Our blue Earth.
5. The Moon has no air to scatter the light.