Name: _____ Date: _____

The Moon Always Shows Us One Face

Circle group

Look at the Moon on a clear night. You see dark and light patches. You see the same ones each time. The Moon shows us the same side.

Here is why. The Moon goes around Earth. It also spins, but slowly. It spins once in the same time it goes around Earth once. So the same side points at us.

We never see the far side. For a long time, people did not know how it looked. Then spacecraft flew around the Moon. They took pictures of it.

You can try this. Walk in a circle around a friend. Keep your face turned to your friend.

Questions

1. What do you see when you look at the Moon each night?

_____

_____

2. What is the side we never see called?

_____

_____

3. How did people learn how the far side looks?

_____

_____

4. What does the Moon do besides going around Earth?

_____

_____

5. In the walking game, who stands for Earth and who stands for the Moon?

_____

_____

Words to know

patches: small areas that look different from what is around them
spin: to turn around and around
spacecraft: a machine that travels in space

pictures: photos that show what something looks like

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: _____

The Moon Always Shows Us One Face

Triangle group

Look at the Moon on any clear night. You will see the same dark and light patches each time. The Moon always shows us the same side.

Here is why. The Moon goes around Earth, and it also spins. It spins slowly. It takes the same amount of time to spin once as it takes to go around Earth once. So the same side always points toward us.

The side we never see is called the far side. People did not know what it looked like for a long time. Then spacecraft flew around the Moon and took pictures of it.

You can try this at home. Walk in a circle around a friend, and keep your face turned toward your friend the whole time.

Questions

1. What do you see when you look at the Moon each night?

_____

_____

2. What is the side we never see called?

_____

_____

3. How did people find out what the far side looks like?

_____

_____

4. What does the Moon do besides going around Earth?

_____

_____

5. In the walking game, who stands for Earth and who stands for the Moon?

_____

_____

Words to know

patches: small areas that look different from what is around them
spin: to turn around and around
spacecraft: a machine that travels in space
pictures: photos that show what something looks like

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: _____

The Moon Always Shows Us One Face

Square group

Look up at the Moon on any clear night, and you will notice the same dark and light patches every time. The Moon always shows us the very same side.

The reason is simple. The Moon travels around Earth, and it also spins on its own, though quite slowly. It takes exactly as long to spin once as it takes to circle Earth once. Because of this, the same side always points toward us.

The side we can never see is called the far side. For a long time, nobody knew what it looked like. Then spacecraft flew around the Moon and sent back pictures of it.

You can try this idea at home. Walk in a circle around a friend, and keep your face turned toward your friend the whole time.

Questions

1. What do you notice each time you look at the Moon on a clear night?

_____

_____

2. What is the side that we can never see called?

_____

_____

3. How did people finally learn what the far side looks like?

_____

_____

4. What does the Moon do on its own besides traveling around Earth?

_____

_____

5. In the walking game, who represents Earth and who represents the Moon?

_____

_____

Words to know

patches: small areas that look different from what is around them
spin: to turn around and around
spacecraft: a machine that travels in space
pictures: photos that show what something looks like

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: The Moon Always Shows Us One Face

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

Circle: The Moon Always Shows Us One Face

Easier · 106 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.4

1. The same dark and light patches.
2. The far side.
3. Spacecraft flew around the Moon and took pictures.
4. It spins.
5. Your friend is Earth, and you are the Moon.

Triangle: The Moon Always Shows Us One Face

This passage · 125 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. The same dark and light patches.
2. The far side.
3. Spacecraft flew around the Moon and took pictures.
4. It spins.
5. Your friend stands for Earth, and you stand for the Moon.

Square: The Moon Always Shows Us One Face

Harder · 132 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. The same dark and light patches.
2. The far side.
3. Spacecraft flew around the Moon and sent back pictures.
4. It spins slowly.
5. Your friend represents Earth, and you represent the Moon.