

The Sun

warm
plants

east
west

earth
moon
night

The sun is a _____. It is a ball
of very _____. The sun
is always _____. The sun is
the _____ star to earth. It
lights the _____ and the
_____. The planet _____
travels around the sun once every
365 days. At _____ it is on the
other side of the earth. The sun
appears to set in the _____ and
rise in the _____. The sun
helps _____ to grow and
keep us _____.

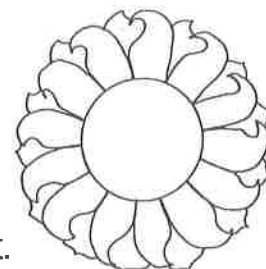
closest
earth

gas

star
burning
hot

Teacher: You may want to discuss solar energy at this time.

Name _____



We Need the Sun

The sun is a ball of hot gases. It gives off heat and light.

We need the sunlight. It gives us heat to stay warm. It gives us light to see by. Plants need the sunlight too. It helps plants make food for us to eat and oxygen (ok-si-jen) for us to breathe.

Fill in the blanks:

1. The sun gives us and .

2. Plants need to make for us to eat.

3. Plants make for us to breathe.

food
sunlight
oxygen
light
heat

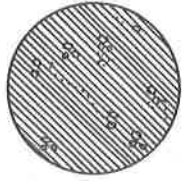
Draw your backyard on a sunny day.

Circle the things that need sunshine.

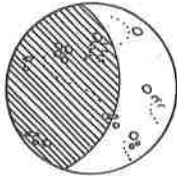
Extra: Get a sheet of paper. Tell one way the sun helps us.

Name _____

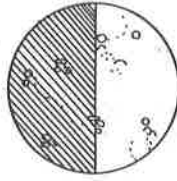
See The Moon Change



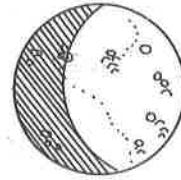
new moon



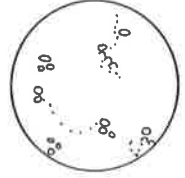
crescent



quarter moon

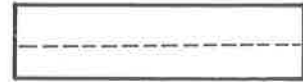
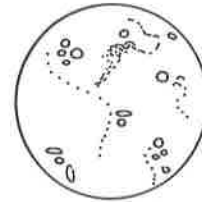
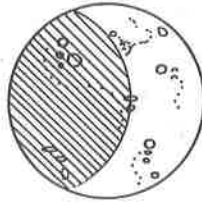
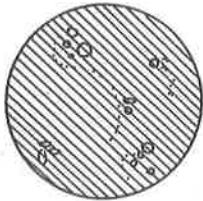


gibbous



full moon

We see the moon at night.
The moon gets its light from the sun.
The moon is always round, but we do not see all of it every night.
As the moon goes around the earth, it looks different to us.



Fill in the blanks:

1. We see the moon at _____ .

2. The moon gets light from the _____ .

3. The _____ goes around the _____ .

earth
moon
night
sun

Extra: Draw a quarter moon on the back of this paper.

Teacher: You may want to discuss the journey of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin.

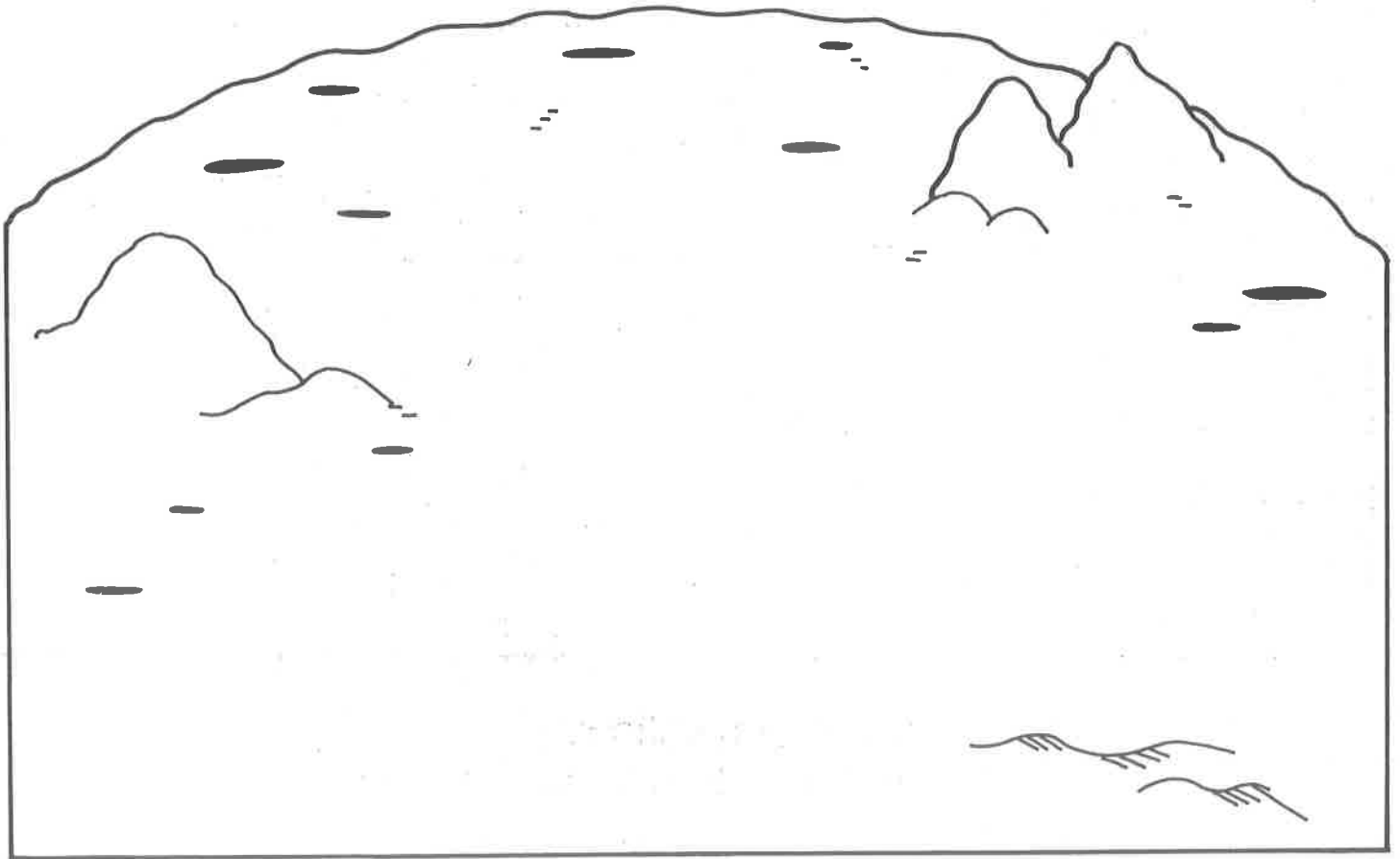
Name _____

Men On the Moon

In 1969 the first men landed on the moon. They walked on the moon. They picked up rocks to bring back to earth.

These men had to wear special suits. They had to take air to breathe. They had to take the food and water they needed for the trip.

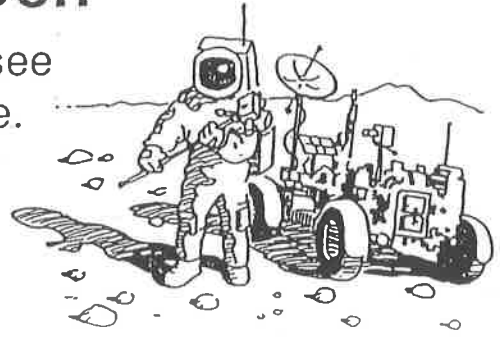
Make a man on this moon.
What will he have on?



Extra: How are the earth and the moon alike?
How are they different?

We See Our Moon

Earth has one moon. It is the moon that we see in the sky. The moon is Earth's partner in space. It makes a path around, or **orbits**, Earth. It also orbits the Sun along with the earth.



The moon looks large because it is closer to Earth than the Sun or planets. Four moons would stretch across the **diameter**, or widest part of the earth.

In 1969 **astronaut** Neil Armstrong took the first steps on the moon. Scientists have studied rocks brought back from the moon.

The surface of the moon has many deep holes called **craters**. It has flat areas called **maria**. The moon also has rocky mountain areas called **highlands**. There is no air, wind, or water on the moon. No life exists there.

Write the word in dark print from the story that matches each definition.

1. deep holes in the moon's surface

2. to make a path around

3. flat land on the moon

4. the widest part of the earth

5. areas with rocky mountains

6. a person who travels in space

Write two sentences about the moon using two of the words in dark print.

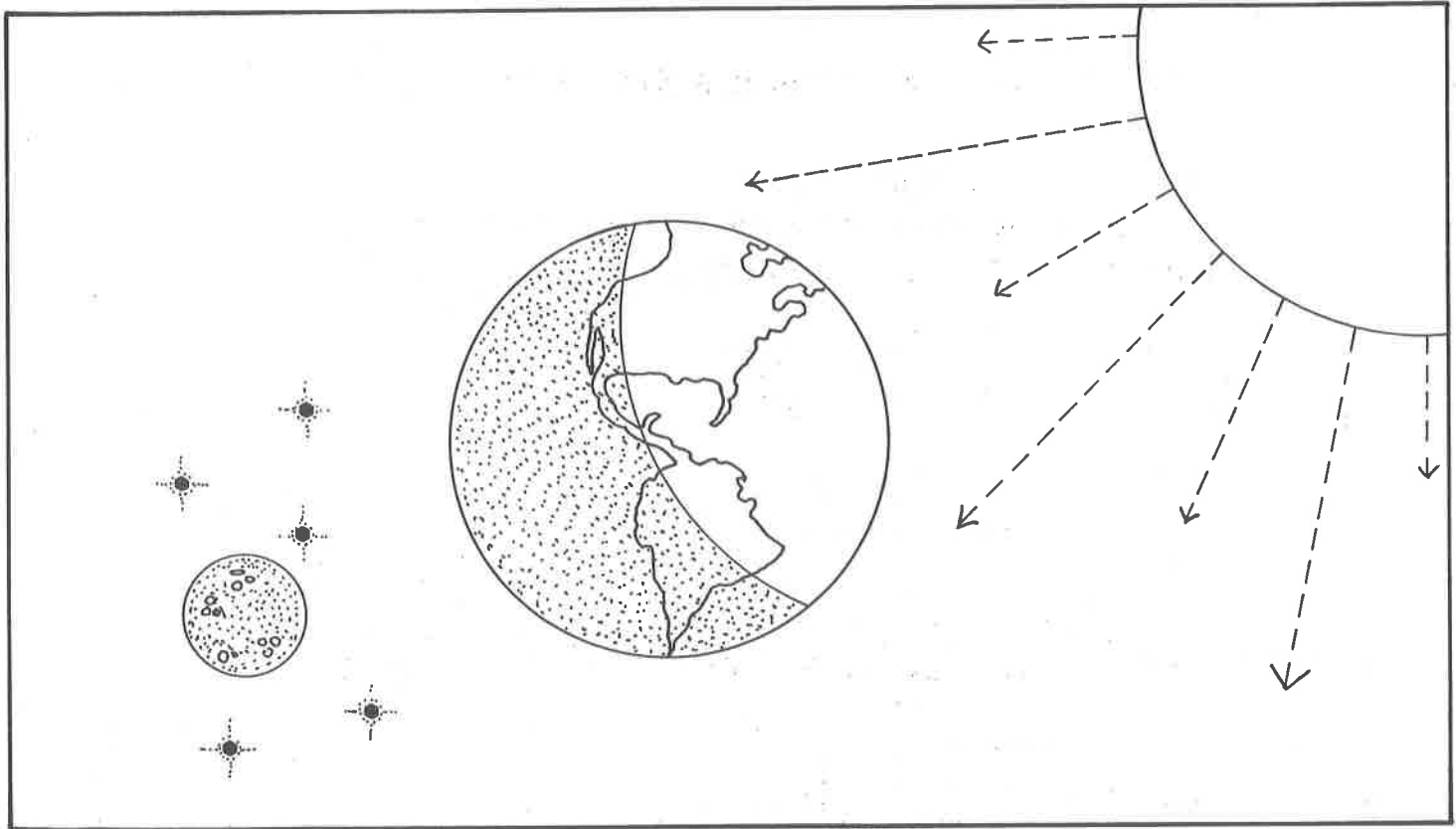
1. _____

2. _____

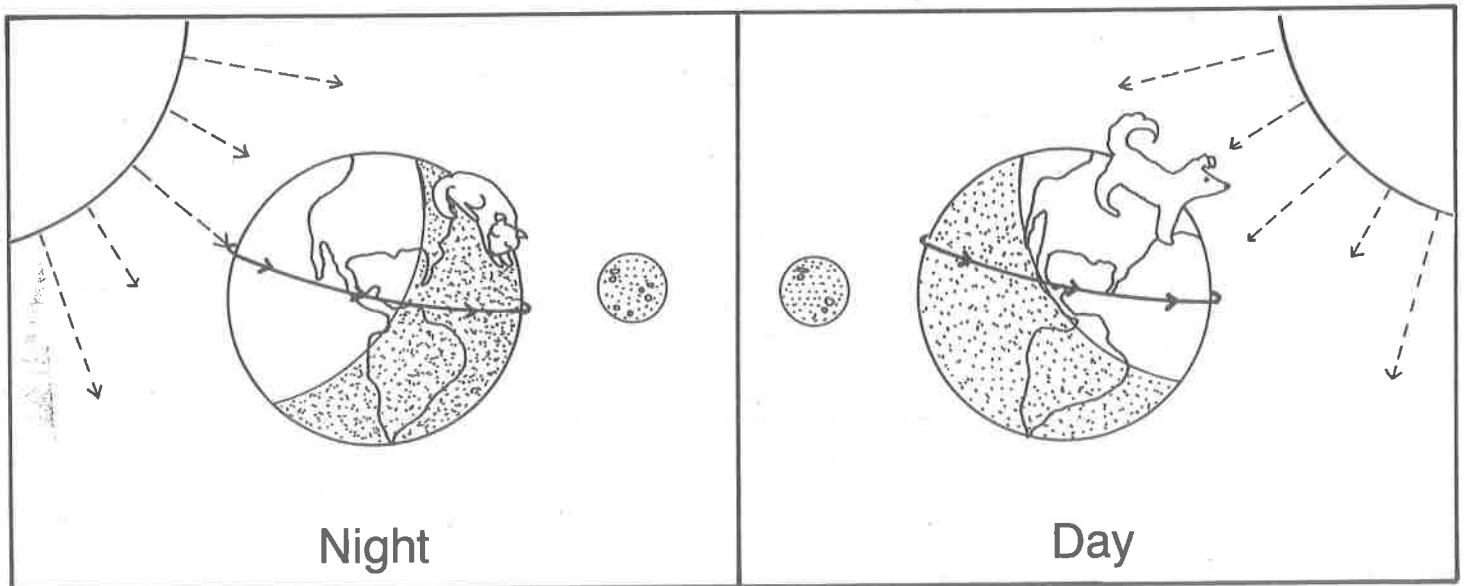
Brainwork! Would you like to visit the moon? Write to explain your answer.

Name _____

Night and Day



The sun shines all the time.
The earth turns so we cannot see the sun's light at night.
Light fills the sky in the daytime.
The sky is dark at night.



Extra: Color the night side black.
Color the day side yellow.

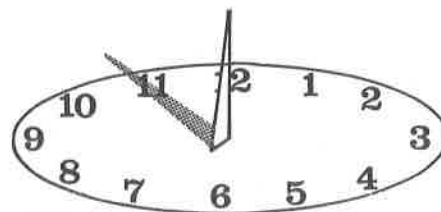
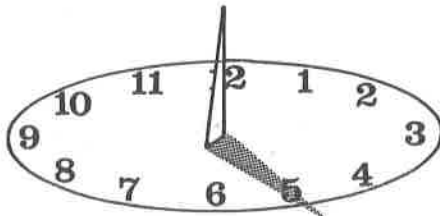
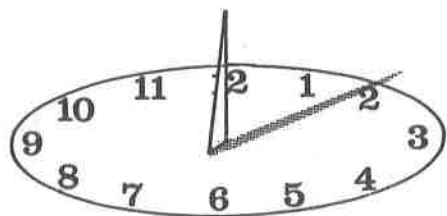
Name _____

A Sunny Way to Tell Time

Long ago the sun helped show what time it was. When sunlight hits something, it makes a shadow.



Shadows move as the sun goes across the sky. Men made a sundial. When the shadow moved, it would touch numbers to show the time.



A sundial was no help on a rainy day or at night!

What time is it?

 <input type="text"/> o'clock	 <input type="text"/> o'clock
 <input type="text"/> o'clock	 <input type="text"/> o'clock

Extra: Show what the hour is in your classroom.

EARTH FACTS

- Earth orbits the Sun in 365.2 days (one year).



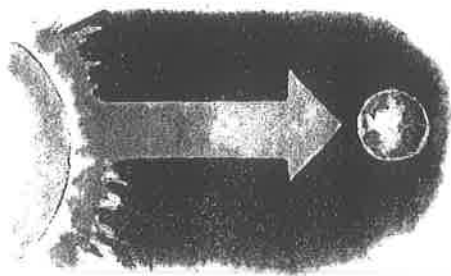
- Earth rotates on its axis in 23 hours and 56 minutes (one day).



- Earth has one Moon, which revolves around the planet every 27.3 days (about one month).



- It takes about eight minutes for sunlight to travel from the Sun to Earth.



- Earth is sometimes called the Blue Planet because water covers three-quarters of its surface. Seen from space, the water makes Earth look blue.



- Thousands of meteoroids hurtle toward Earth every year. Most of them burn up in Earth's atmosphere before they hit the ground.



- Earth is the fifth largest planet in the solar system, after Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.



Jupiter



Saturn



Uranus



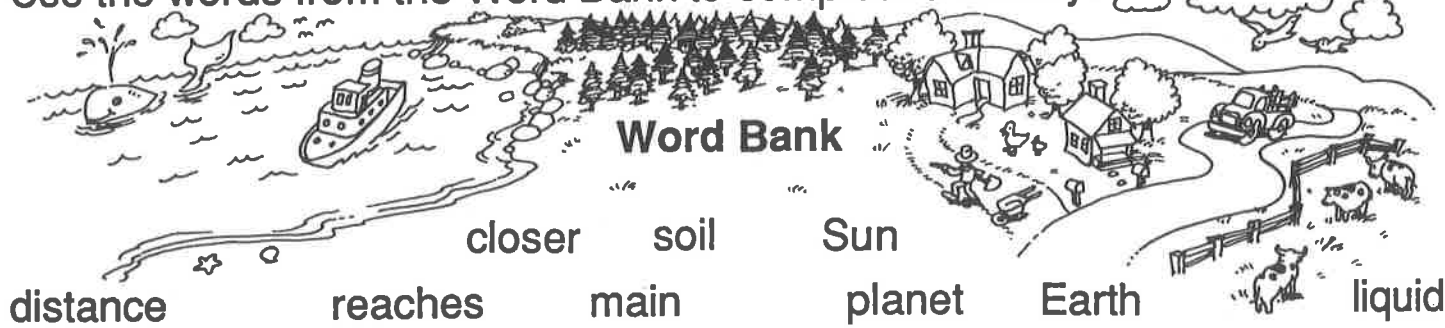
Neptune



Earth

Our Home Planet

Use the words from the Word Bank to complete the story.



Word Bank

distance reaches closer soil Sun planet Earth liquid

The third planet from the _____₁ is our home planet Earth. Earth has something no other _____₂ is known to have—living things.

Earth is at the right _____₃ from the Sun to have the liquid water necessary to support life. Mercury and Venus are too hot because they are _____₄ to the Sun. The other planets are too far from the Sun to have _____₅ water. Not much heat or light _____₆ them, so the water would be in the form of ice.

Earth has a lot of water. Most living things need water. Water helps to control the earth's weather and climate. Water also breaks rocks into _____₇ which plants need to grow.

Earth is surrounded by a blanket of air called the atmosphere. Oxygen is one of the _____₈ gases in the atmosphere. Most animals breathe oxygen.

_____₉ is a special planet!

Brainwork! Design a poster showing why Earth is a good planet for living things.

A Strip of Space

Follow these directions to compare the positions of the planets from the Sun.

1. Color:

- the Sun yellow
- Mercury brown
- Venus yellow
- Earth green
- Mars red
- Jupiter orange
- Saturn yellow
- Uranus and Neptune blue
- Pluto purple

2. Cut out the four strips.

3. Glue:

- strip 2 to the right end of strip 1
- strip 3 to the right end of strip 2
- strip 4 to the right end of strip 3



(Distances are to approximate scale.)

			1. glue
			2. glue
			3. glue

Why is Earth ideal?

Earth is the third planet from the sun. It is covered with water, rocks and soil, and surrounded by air. Earth's location from the sun and its atmosphere of 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, plus water vapor and other gases allow plant and animal life to abound. The atmosphere extends 1,000 miles above the surface. Research satellites have revealed that the upper atmosphere is active and affects our weather and climate.

Earth rotates at the fast speed of 1,600 km (1,000 mi.) per hour making a complete rotation every 24 hours. Earth revolves around the sun every 365 days on its axis, an imaginary line passing through the North and South Poles. Because Earth's axis is tilted, there is a regular change of seasons. Earth's rapid rotation, its extensive magnetic field and its atmosphere shield us from most of the sun's harmful radiation. Most meteors burn up in Earth's atmosphere before they strike the surface. Earth has 1 moon which revolves around it.



A. Why is Earth's location from the sun ideal?

B. Why is it important for Earth to rotate?

C. What would Earth be like if it rotated as slowly as Mercury? (Mercury rotates 6 miles per hour.)

D. Name things essential to our lives that the sun and Earth provide.

Science at home:

Imagine another planet in a different galaxy that is the same distance from a star as Earth is from the sun. Describe life on that planet in a short story. Would life on that planet be similar or different from life on Earth?