STATEWIDE STAR PARTY

DRAW WHAT YOU SEE

Activity Instructions

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

OBJECTIVE

Observe the Moon and draw it in sand

SUGGESTED AGE RANGE

Ages 3 and up

ACTIVITY DURATION

2-5 minutes

MATERIALS

These materials are included in the 2016 Star Party host kit.

- tray
- black construction paper
- 1 cup of sand (note: salt works, too)
- 8 Moon phase cards

MORE RESOURCES

- Generate a display of Moon phases for a given month at https://stardate.org/content/moon-phases
- Find Moon rise and set times at the Astronomical Applications Department of the U.S. Naval Observatory at http://aa.usno.navy.mil/index.php

CREDITS

This activity is modified from an activity designed by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific for its My Sky Tonight workshop.

PREPARATION

1. Place the tray on a table. Line the tray with the black paper, and cover the paper with a layer of sand. Consider protecting your table and floor since this activity can be messy.
2. *If you'll be outside:* Plan to do this activity when you can see the Moon in the sky. Optional: You may wish to lay out the Moon phase cards.
3. *If you'll be indoors:* Lay out the Moon phase cards near the tray. Look up the current phase so you will be able to tell participants which card is the closest match.

PROCEDURE

1. Ask your participants to observe the Moon (either the real Moon in the sky, or on a Moon phase card). What shape does it look like to them? This is an opportunity to practice using scientific terms for lunar phases, such as *crescent, quarter, gibbous, full.*
2. Invite your participants to use their fingers to draw in the sand what they saw. Encourage creativity: Maybe they want to create craters. Maybe they see a face in the Moon they want to replicate.
3. Encourage participants to look for the Moon in the sky in the future.
4. Prepare for the next drawing by having a "moonquake" (gently vibrate the tray to smooth the sand).

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