

Name: _____

Skywatching

Procedure: Read each question. Think about what you already know about the question. If you think you know the answer, put it in the left row under, “I Think...” If you have no idea, leave the box blank. You are not expected to know all the answers. Do not fill in the shaded part “I Learned...” now.

I Think...	Questions	I Learned...
	What shape is the sun? Is it the same as the Earth?	
	Which is bigger, the sun, the moon or the Earth?	
	Which is farther away, the sun or the moon?	
	What would it be like to walk on the moon?	
	Could you walk on the sun? If you could, what would it be like?	
	Could you find water on the moon?	
	Could you find living things on the moon?	
	Does the moon shine every night?	
	How does the shape of the moon change?	

Stories Told By Ancient Peoples

The Inuit (Eskimo) People

In Greenland, the Inuits believed the moon god was named *Anningan*. He always chased his sister, *Malina*, the Sun goddess, across the sky. While he ran, he forgot to eat so each day he got thinner. Whenever he got very thin, he hid for three days to eat and get fat again. His sister thinks he is a pest, and always tries to stay away from him. The Inuit think that is why the sun and the moon are not out at the same time.

The Chinese People

The Chinese people believed that there were twelve Moons, one for each month of the year. They also thought there were ten suns, because their week had ten days. All the suns and the moons had the same mother, *Heng-O*. They believed that the moons were made of water with toads inside. According to an ancient Chinese legend, once the suns decided to all appear together. They almost burned the Earth, so an archer shot nine of them and there was only one left.

The West African People

Liza was the name of the sun god to the Fon people of West Africa. He represented heat, work, and strength. His sister was the moon god *Mawu*. The moon brought cool temperatures and good crops. Together they created the Universe. A great serpent, *Da*, helped them to create the Earth and everything on it.

The Norse People

Freyr was the sun god of the Norse people. He made the world warm and helped with peace and fertility. He was in love with *Gerd* who lived in the underworld. So he sent a servant, *Skirnir*, to go to the underworld and ask *Gerd* to marry him. When the servant was gone into the underworld, the world was cold and it was winter.

The Night Sky Today

Ancient people told each of these myths. No one really believes them any more. But we still use names for groups of objects in the night sky that began as myths and stories. Here are some examples. What kind of people might have given these groups their names? Can you find clues in the objects they saw?

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Orion | “The Hunter” |
| Libra | “Weighing Scales” |
| Taurus | “The Bull” |
| Aquarius | “The Water Carrier” |
| Draco | “The Dragon” |
| Ursa Major | “The Great Bear” |
| Leo | “The Lion” |
| Camelopardalis | “The Giraffe” |
| Sagittarius | “The Archer” |



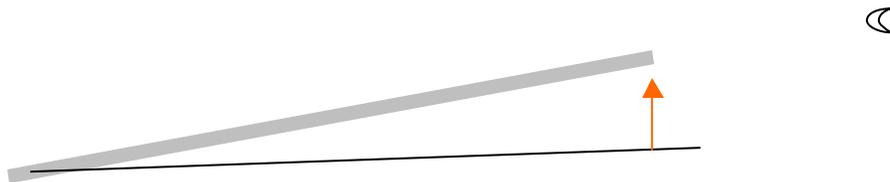
Can you guess what kinds of people knew about lions, bears, and dragons and used weapons and weighing scales? _____

Your Moon Journal

For this unit, you will keep a journal of observations of the moon. Make your observations at the same time every night. You will need a pencil and paper, a long stick (a meter stick or broom handle), and a ruler that measures in centimeters. You will also need to know which direction are north, east, south, and west. You can ask an adult or use a compass.

Here are the steps:

- Write down the time. (It should be the same each night.)
- Write down the direction where you see the moon. (If you cannot see it, write “no moon” and skip the next three steps.)
- Draw the moon as carefully as you can.
- Measure how high the moon is in the sky. To do this, you will need a stick at least one meter long. Put one end of the stick on the ground. Point the other end of the stick toward the moon. (Scoot down so you can look along the stick.) Measure how high the stick is exactly one meter down it.



My Moon Journal

Date _____

Time _____

Where was the moon? _____ (direction)

What did the moon look like?



How high was the moon?

When one end of my meter stick was on the ground, and the stick was pointed at the moon, the other end was _____ high.