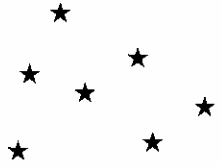


Investigating the Moon



Objectives

Students will:

- Brainstorm and display key ideas.
- Explain their knowledge of the Moon.

Overview

Brainstorm and create a Thinking Web that demonstrates students' knowledge of the Moon. This is an opening exercise to introduce the study of the Moon to students and to assess prior knowledge.

Key Question

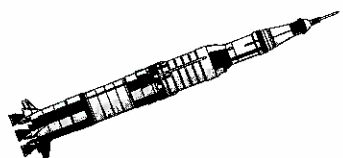
Why study the Moon?

Procedures

1. Reproduce the student worksheet and give each student a copy.
2. Have students complete each question on the map and encourage them to draw illustrations to go with their answers.
3. You can use the students' answers as an informal method to assess prior knowledge by starting a class discussion. Students' answers will vary. Below are some examples of where to lead the discussion:

Examples of Student Responses	Discussion Points
The Moon changes appearance.	Discuss the phases of the Moon and the orbital motions that generate its change in appearance.
The Moon has a lot of craters.	Discuss what contributes to the comparatively large number of craters on the Moon's surface, such as lack of atmosphere and erosion.
The Moon has dark and light areas.	Talk about the maria and lunar highlands, and investigate why the smooth maria appear darker than the surrounding terrain.
People have walked on the Moon.	Talk about the Apollo space program and future plans to explore the Moon.
The Moon is the only natural satellite of the Earth.	Talk about the current theory of how the Moon may have formed.

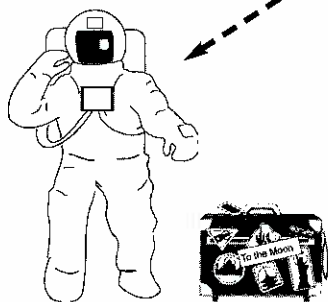
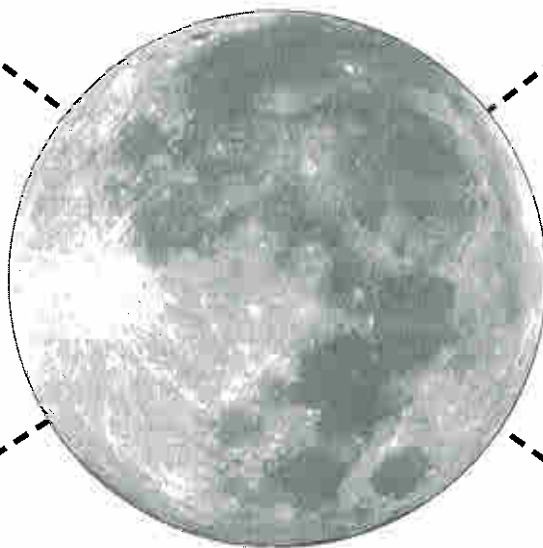
Investigating The Moon



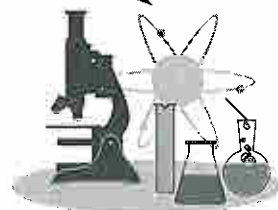
I know the Moon is . . .



I know the Moon has . . .



I would like to visit the Moon because . . .



If I went to the Moon I would study . . .
