

Moon and Stars (3-4th grades) Post-Visit Activities

Vocabulary List and Student Definitions (elementary level):

- **Sun-** the closest star to earth, our sun is a medium sized yellow star.
- **Star-** a huge ball of glowing gas, made mostly of hydrogen and helium. From Earth, stars look like a point of light.
- **Constellations-** a large group of stars which form a pattern in the night sky.
- **Moon-** a natural satellite which orbits a planet.
- **Moon Phases-** the visible change in the reflection of light off the moon which causes the moon to appear to change shape.
- **Axis-** the line which the earth rotates around. Earth's axis is slightly tilted (23.5 degrees).
- **Planets-** a massive sphere which orbits a star.

Student Activities

1. Charting the moon
 - a. Send each student home with a "charting the moon" worksheet. The worksheet can also be found online at www.cascaeducation.ca.
 - b. Students will write in the current month and number the days correctly on their calendar. For 30 days they will keep track of the moons phases by stepping outside each night to draw what they see.
 - c. Remind students that from night to night, the moon may appear to not change or only change in small amounts, but over the course of a month, we can see the phases very clearly.
 - d. Discuss as a group how the changes in the moon may affect our earth. Was it brighter at night when the moon was full? What else on earth is affected by the moon?

2. I am the sun!
 - a. Allow students to revisit what they learned during their field trip while using their writing and language arts skills. Ask students to write a story titled "I Am the Sun" in which they describe their life and role as the sun.
 - b. Students can describe what they are made of as the sun, and what they provide for the solar system. Students can also describe where their light rays travel, listing the planets from Mercury to Pluto.
 - c. If time allows, encourage students to share their stories or create an illustration for their story.

Charting the Moon

Name: _____

Month: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
						
						
						
						