

Lesson 1. Introduce the Moon



- Read at least three books about the moon. You may choose from the recommendations below or select your own.
 - *Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me* by Eric Carle
 - *The Nightgown of the Sullen Moon* by Nancy Willard
 - *So That's How the Moon Changes Shape* by Allan Fowler
 - *The Moon Book* by Gail Gibbons
 - *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
 - *All about the Moon* by David A. Adler

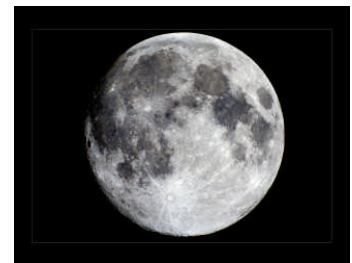
- Have the child order the books within the following categories by laying them out on the floor or on a table in order:
 - From favorite to least favorite
 - From hardest to easiest
 - From most to least realistic

- Have the child write or dictate a short book review of his/her favorite book. The review should include the following:
 - The best thing about the book
 - Who he/she would recommend the book to (boy/girl, grade/age)
 - Reasons for recommendation (illustrations/story/funny/sad)

- Ask the child the following questions:
 - Would you like to go to the moon? Why or why not?
 - If you went to the moon, who would you take with you?
 - What do you think it would be like if we had two moons? How could we tell them apart?

- Read the following facts about the moon and its phases. The facts are grouped in lists of five facts. Within each group, have the child rank the facts from 1 to 5 in order of most to least important to know, with 1 being most important and 5 being the least.

- After the facts are ranked, have the child put a star next to the facts he or she knew before reading the list.



Fact	Rank
The moon has many names; for instance, the Romans called it Luna.	
The moon does not make its own light. It can only reflect light. We see the light reflected off of the moon from the sun.	
The moon has no atmosphere, so it doesn't have weather. There is no wind on the moon. Because of this, the footprints on the moon left by the astronauts will stay for millions of years.	
The moon is about 4.5 billion years old.	
The moon is orbiting around the earth at the speed of 2, 288 miles (3,683 kilometers) per hour.	

Fact	Rank
The surface of the moon isn't flat. It has lots of craters. They were formed by meteorites hitting the moon.	
The moon also has mountains and valleys.	
The moon moves across our sky toward the east.	
The moon is 250,000 miles from earth.	
The moon takes 27 days, 7 hours, 43 minutes and 11.6 seconds to orbit the earth.	

Fact	Rank
The part of the moon we can see changes. We call these changes the phases of the moon.	
The phases of the moon are caused by its orbit around the earth.	
The first phase of the moon is called the new moon. That is when you cannot see the moon from earth at all.	
If you have two new moons in a month, the second one is called a blue moon.	
It takes the moon about 29 ½ days to go through all its phases. We call this a lunar month.	