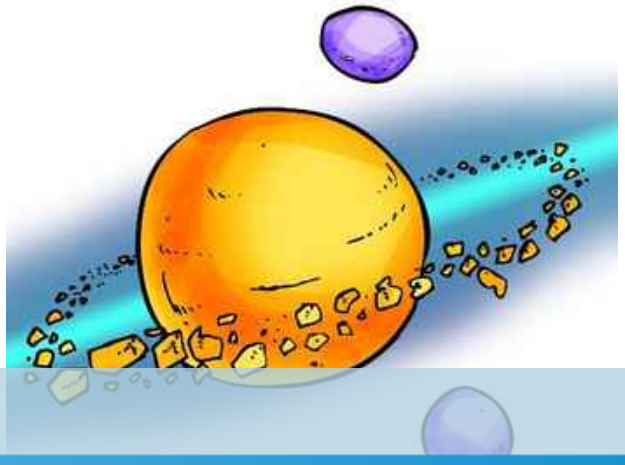
Name: _____

Moons in Orbit

by Katie Clark

Did you know that other planets have moons, too? These moons are called *satellites*. A satellite is something that *orbits*, or moves around a planet.



Some of these moons are small. Some of these moons are big. Some of them are really amazing!

Mars is our closest neighbor who has a moon —in fact, Mars has two of them! Mars' moons are

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Saturn has big rings around it. These rings are made of moons that broke apart, and still orbit the planet. Saturn has fifty-three moons!

Uranus has a famous moon, too. Titania is known for earthquakes! Some of Titania's fault lines are a thousand miles long! All together Uranus has twenty-seven moons.

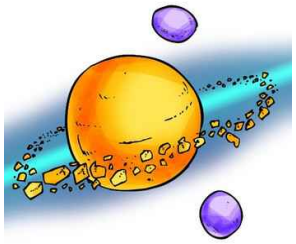
The planet Neptune was named after a god of the sea. Scientists named Neptune's moons after other sea gods! Triton was the first moon of Neptune that scientists found. It rotates in a different direction from the planet. Neptune has thirteen moons.

Mercury and Venus are the only two planets in our solar system that don't have moons. They are so close to the sun that any moons would be pulled away by the sun's gravity.

New moons, planets, and stars are discovered every day. Who will discover the next one? It might be you!

Name: _____

Moons in Orbit



by Katie Clark

1. What is this article mostly about?

a. the solar system
b. Earth's moon
c. planets orbiting the sun
d. moons of different planets

2. Which is the largest moon in our solar system?

a. Jupiter
b. Saturn
c. Ganymede
d. Titania

3. Mars' moon Phobos may crash into Mars one day. Why?

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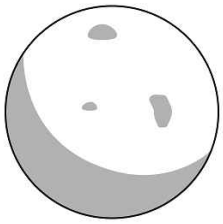
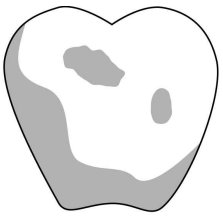
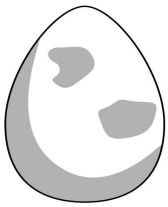
_____

5. Look at the moons pictured below.

a.
b. 
c. 
d. 

Which moon is Deimos? _____

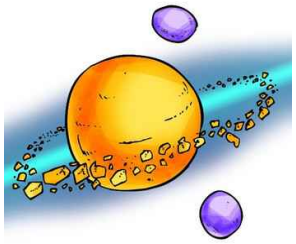
Explain how you know. _____

_____

Name: _____

Moons in Orbit

by Katie Clark



Match each of the the vocabulary words on the left with the correct definition on the right.

_____ **1.** satellite

a. ringed planet

_____ **2.** Saturn

b. force that pulls objects toward the center of a star or planet

_____ **3.** volcanoes

c. openings in a planet's surface or crust

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_____ **6.** gravity

f. spins on an axis

_____ **7.** famous

g. object which orbits a planet

_____ **8.** potatoes

h. well-known

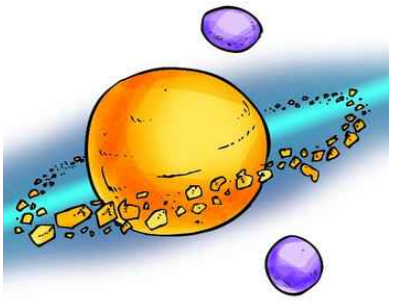
Now try this: Re-read the article and highlight each of the vocabulary words.

Name: _____

Moons in Orbit

by Katie Clark

Choose one moon in our solar system. Use the Internet or encyclopedia to research five interesting facts about the moon you chose.



Name of Moon: _____

Planet That It Orbits: _____

Fact 1:

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Fact 3: _____

_____

Fact 4: _____

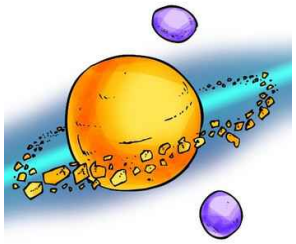
_____

Fact 5: _____

_____

ANSWER KEY

Moons in Orbit



by Katie Clark

1. What is this article mostly about? **d**

a. the solar system
b. Earth's moon
c. planets orbiting the sun
d. **moons of different planets**

2. Which is the largest moon in our solar system? **c**

a. Jupiter
b. Saturn
c. **Ganymede**
d. Titania

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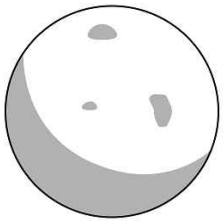
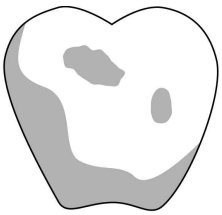
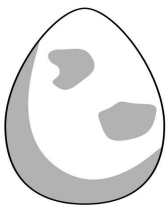
They are so close to the sun that any moons would be pulled away by the sun's gravity.

5. Look at the moons pictured below.

a.
b. 
c. 
d. 

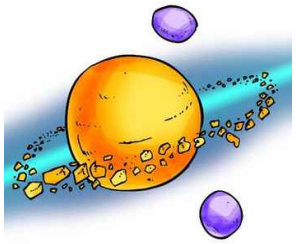
Which moon is Deimos? **a**

Explain how you know. **Deimos is potato-shaped.**

ANSWER KEY

Moons in Orbit

by Katie Clark



Match each of the the vocabulary words on the left with the correct definition on the right.

g	**1.** satellite	**a.**	ringed planet
a	**2.** Saturn	**b.**	force that pulls objects toward the center of a star or planet
		c.	openings in a planet's surface or crust
		e.	events in which there is shaking and shifting of the ground
b	**6.** gravity	**f.**	spins on an axis
h	**7.** famous	**g.**	object which orbits a planet
d	**8.** potatoes	**h.**	well-known

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Now try this: Re-read the article and highlight each of the vocabulary words.