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 named Phobos and Deimos. These moons are shaped like potatoes! Each time it rotates, Phobos gets closer to Mars that one day it could crash into Mars!

Jupiter has over sixty moons. Ganymede is the largest out of any of the planets’ moons. It is bigger than the planet Mercury! Another amazing moon is Io. It is full of volcanoes!

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!
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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?

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

4. Why don’t Mercury and Venus have moons?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

5. Look at the moons pictured below.

   a.  
   b.  
   c.  
   d.  

Which moon is Deimos? _______

Explain how you know. ________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Super Teacher Worksheets - www.superteacherworksheets.com
Match each of the vocabulary words on the left with the correct definition on the right.

1. satellite
2. Saturn
3. volcanoes
4. earthquake
5. gravity
6. famous
7. potatoes

A. ringed planet
B. force that pulls objects toward the center of a star or planet
C. openings in a planet's surface or crust
D. events in which there is shaking and shifting of the ground
E. spins on an axis
F. object which orbits a planet
G. well-known

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

Fact 2: ___________________________________________________________________________________________

Fact 3: ___________________________________________________________________________________________

Fact 4: ___________________________________________________________________________________________

Fact 5: ___________________________________________________________________________________________

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2. Which is the largest moon in our solar system?  
   a. Jupiter  
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3. Mars’ moon Phobos

4. Why don’t Mercury and Venus have moons?  
   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.

   Which moon is Deimos?  
   a
   Explain how you know.  
   Deimos is potato-shaped.
Match each of the vocabulary words on the left with the correct definition on the right.

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<td><strong>a</strong></td>
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<td>Saturn</td>
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<td>force that pulls objects toward the center of a star or planet</td>
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<td>volcanoes</td>
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<td><strong>e</strong></td>
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<td>earthquakes</td>
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<td><strong>d</strong></td>
<td><strong>8.</strong></td>
<td>potatoes</td>
<td><strong>h.</strong></td>
<td>vegetables that grow underground</td>
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