



Name _____

Date _____

THE MOON

Many of the planets in our solar systems have satellites. Satellites are objects or items that rotate around a planet. These can be manmade or they can be natural satellites. Did you know the moon is a natural satellite of the Earth? There are moons in this solar system that are larger, but it is still very big. On the other hand, the moon is smaller than the Earth. That is why objects weigh less on the moon than they do on Earth. When the astronauts traveled to the moon, they could float and bounce around because they weighed less on the moon.

The moon does not have any liquid water on it. The moon, however, does have craters, mountain ranges, and lava plains as well as other special features. The inside of the moon is made up of layers. Some of these layers are rock solid while others are molten like lava.

One thing that scientists have learned is that there is no wind on the moon. That is because there is no atmosphere on the moon. Because there is no atmosphere, there is no protection from the sun. The moon can get very hot during the day and very cold at night.

Humans have been able to see the moon since the beginning, but Galileo was the first person to look at the moon close up. He used a telescope to let him see things more closely. Galileo learned a lot of amazing things about the moon.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which paragraph explains the physical features of the moon?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. second paragraph
 - c. third paragraph
 - d. fourth paragraph
2. What inferences can you make about the moon after reading this passage?
 - a. Unaided, humans cannot live on the moon.
 - b. The moon used to be considered one of the planets.
 - c. The moon has living organisms on it.
 - d. The moon rotates around the sun more quickly than the Earth.
3. Which statement shows the author's opinion about the moon?
 - a. Galileo learned a lot of amazing things about the moon.
 - b. Scientists have been studying the moon and its surface for years.
 - c. On the other hand, the moon is smaller than the Earth.
 - d. He used a telescope to let him see things more closely.