

Post-Planetarium Visit Activity

- Moon Calendar -



Objective:

Students will recognize that the moon's "shape" changes a little bit each night/day, completing a pattern within a period of about one month.

Materials:

- o Blank Calendar Handout (provided)
- o Pencil
- o Paper
- o One month

Activity:

1. Ask the students to share what they learned about the "shapes" of the moon while at the planetarium.
2. Tell the students they are going to draw a picture of what the moon looks like each day for one month.
3. Print and distribute one "Blank Calendar Handout" to each student.
4. Have the students write the name of the month on the top of the handout.
5. Have the students correctly number the dates on the calendar.
6. Encourage the students to look up in the sky each day while waiting for the bus, outside at recess, or at home in the evening. Then have the students draw that moon shape on their calendar.
7. If students are not able to actually see the moon each day, tell them just to fill in the calendar on the days they do see the moon.
8. Once the calendar is complete, ask the students what pattern they see.

Extension:

Have students write down the name of each phase of the moon, and whether or not the moon is waxing (getting bigger) or waning (getting smaller).