

Moon Stories from Around the World



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Storytelling is a human tradition

There are as many stories about the shapes on the face of the Moon as there are cultures who have observed them. They often relate moral tales or creation stories.

Do you have a Moon story that was told to you?

Why do so many cultures have Moon stories?

What do you see in the Moon?

- Take a look at the characters from the cultures that are shown on a story card. In each case, the storyteller used the light and dark spots on the face of the Moon to create the characters in their story.
- Look at the image of the Full Moon.
- Draw the character or characters that you see when you look at the Moon.
- Write your own story about why your characters are seen in the Moon.

Download these cards and worksheet here:
bit.ly/moonstories

Fold these story cards in half and tape or paste.
Encourage visitors of all ages to tell Moon stories.

All Moon images credit NASA SVS: svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/4604

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NASA Night Sky Network: nightskynetwork.org



Peru

Fox in the Moon

All that Fox could think about was getting to Moon. After braiding a grass rope long enough to reach Moon, he got help from the birds to fly it up to Moon for him. Once that was done, Fox climbed up the rope. Now the birds say they can see Fox in the Full Moon. Can you?

Challenge: What do you notice about the Moon below compared with the large full Moon on the cover page?



Fox in the Moon



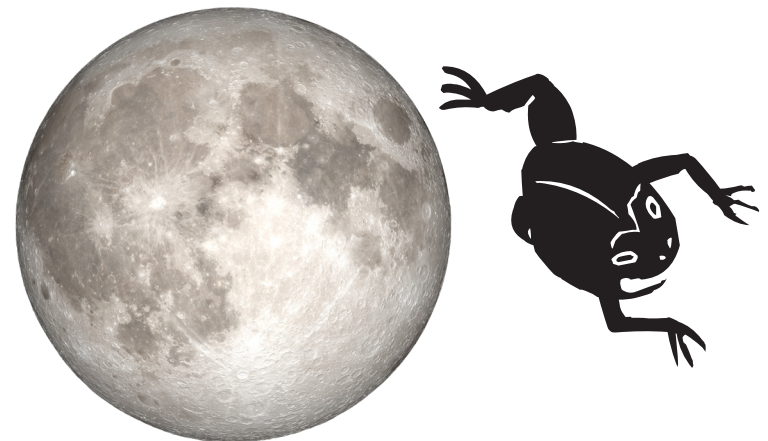
China

Toad in the Moon

Heng O found out that her husband, Sheng I, had discovered the secret of immortality. When she found his magic potion, she drank it and immediately flew out the window up to the Moon. Sheng I was so angry with what she had done, he turned her into a three-legged toad. Can you see the toad in the face of the full moon?



Toad in the Moon



Scandinavia

Jack and Jill

Hyuki (Jack) and Bil (Jill) were sent up the hill to fetch a pail of water from a magical well. Water from this well inspired poetry and prophecy. The children were spotted by the man who carries the Moon across the sky each night in his chariot. He scooped them up into his chariot and carried them away. The two children can still be seen there today, along with their bucket and pole. Can you find the splash from the spilled bucket?



Jack and Jill



Australia

Bahloo the Moon

Back in the Dreamtime, Bahloo (Moon) visited the Earth and saw two young women who invited him to ride in their canoe. He was unsteady in the little craft and fell into the water. Embarrassed by his clumsiness, he hid. Although he now shines brightly every month, he remembers this little accident and shrinks away to gather his courage. Can you find the embarrassed Bahloo in the Full Moon?



Bahloo the Moon



New Zealand Moon Woman

The Maori call the woman in the Moon Rona. On a moonlit night she was returning from a stream with a calabash full of water. Moon slipped behind a cloud for a moment, and in the darkness Rona stumbled on the root of a tree. Angry, she cursed Moon. Moon, who would not stand for this abuse, swooped down on her and carried her off along with her water gourd and the tree that had tripped her. The Maori still see all three there today. Can you?



Moon Woman



Polynesia Moon Woman

Have you ever seen a rainbow at night formed by moonlight instead of sunlight? Legend has it that Hina, a Polynesian woman who was on her way to get some fresh water, did. She had always wanted to live in the heavens, so she walked along the rainbow and didn't stop until she reached Moon. She lives there now and can be seen beating her tapa board to make cloth. Can you find her?



Moon Woman



Mexico

Rabbit Moon

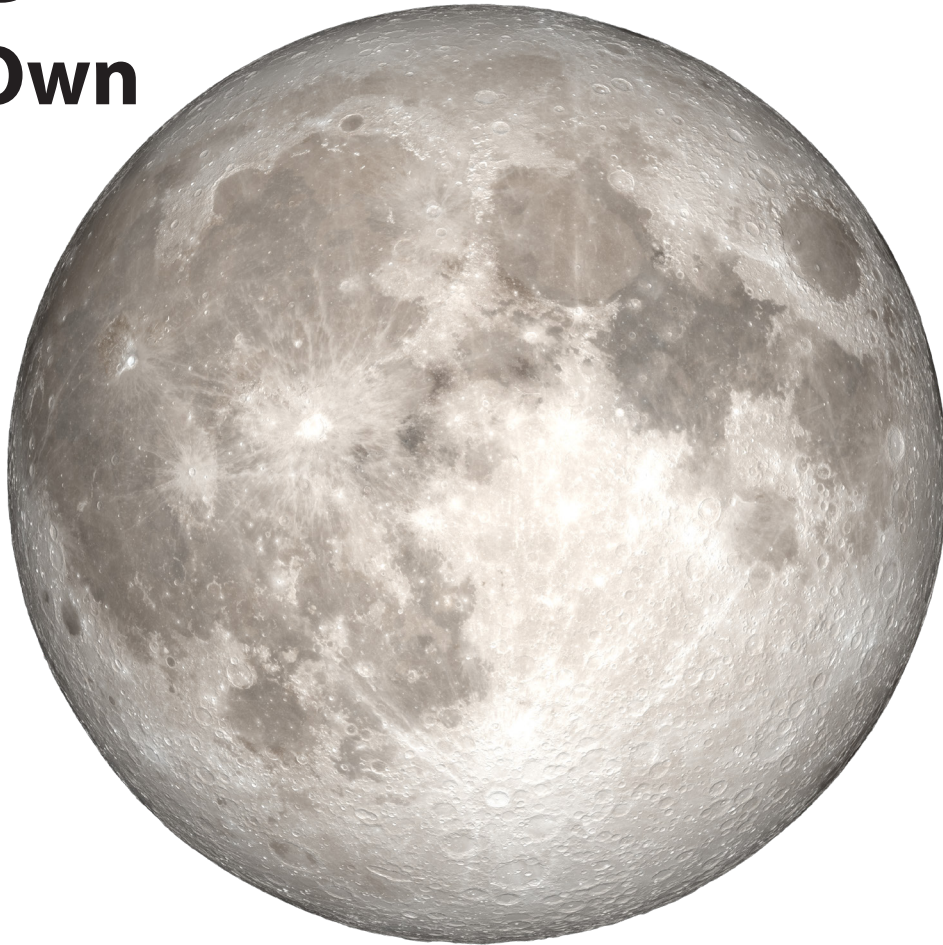
In ancient times, an Aztec god chose to set himself on fire and jump into the sky to light the cold, dark world. He became the Sun. A second god, jealous of the praise that the new Sun was getting, did the same. All of that light angered a third god who threw a rabbit at the second Sun's face to dim his light, making him the Moon. Can you see the dark rabbit on the Moon?



Rabbit Moon



Create Your Own Moon Story



Draw one or more characters that you see in the Moon.
Then tell a story below about how they got there.

Character(s):

Story:

