



# Moon Observation Journal



## Explore the changing Moon!

Ever wonder why the Moon appears to change shape? Or why its surface looks the way it does? You don't have to join Mindy's tea party on the Moon to find out! Scientists have made all sorts of discoveries about the Moon, stars and our own Earth just by looking up at the sky. Use the printable Moon Observation Journal to track and record your observations.

### Materials

- Printable Moon Journal (next pages)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Flashlight
- Two balls
- Flour
- Cocoa powder
- Pebble

Earthies say that when the Moon appears to get bigger, it *waxes*. When it looks like it gets smaller, it *wanes*. Awesome words for a big, orbiting rock!



### Make Your Observation Journal

Print the Moon Observation Journal and instructions on the following pages. Want to observe longer? Print more pages!

### Observe and Record the Moon

1. For one week, look into the night sky to observe the Moon. What do you notice? Draw pictures of what you see and write down anything you observe: shape, size and location are a good place to start.
2. When your journal is complete, look back at what you saw. What do you notice about the shape of the Moon and its place in the night sky? What features on the Moon did you observe? What conclusions can you make from your observations? Share your conclusions with a friend.

### Tip

The more times you look up, the more you learn. Try looking at the Moon near bedtime, early in the morning and even during the day! If you can, use binoculars to look even closer.

### More Ways to Explore

1. From your observations, did the Moon appear to change its shape? This "change" is really the shadow of the Earth as it blocks the Sun's light from reaching the Moon. With a flashlight (the Sun), a friend and two balls (the Earth and the Moon), try to recreate some of the Moon shapes you drew in your journal.
2. Did you see any unusual features on the surface of the Moon? Mountains, valleys and craters can all be found there! Craters are formed when large rocks (asteroids) hit the Moon's surface, forming a circular hole. Try making your own craters on a Moon-like surface with a 2-inch layer of flour in a small bowl. Add a sprinkling of cocoa or other dark powder on top. Toss a small pebble into the layers and create your own crater! Compare your flour craters with your drawings or the Moon itself. How are they alike? How are they different?

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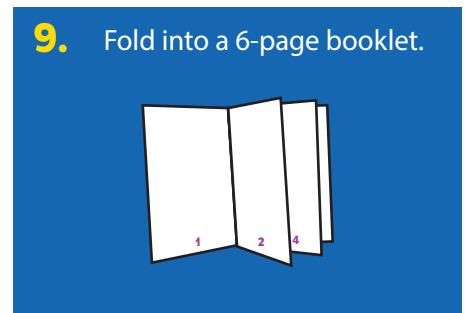
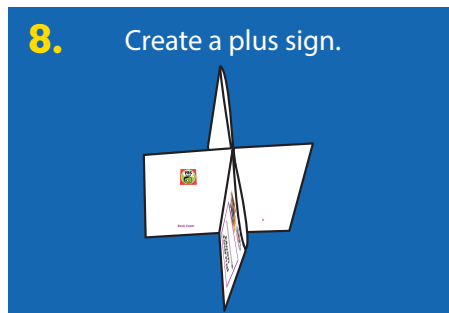
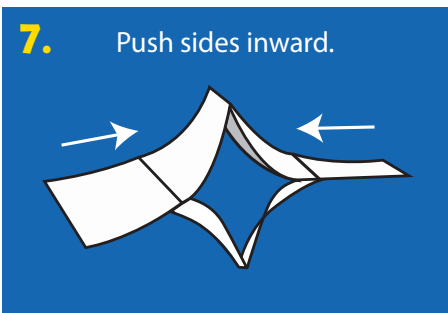
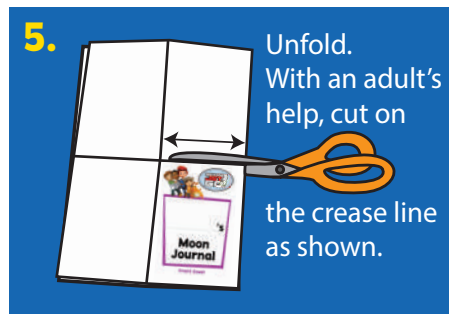
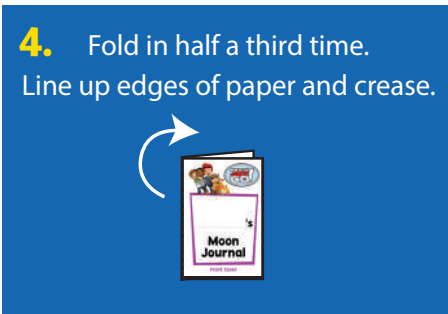
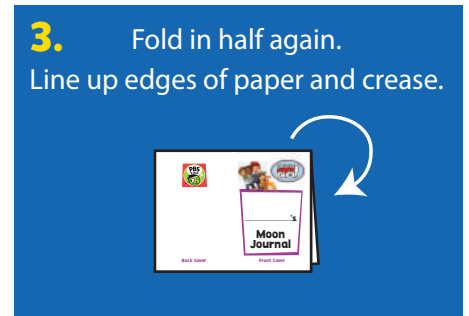
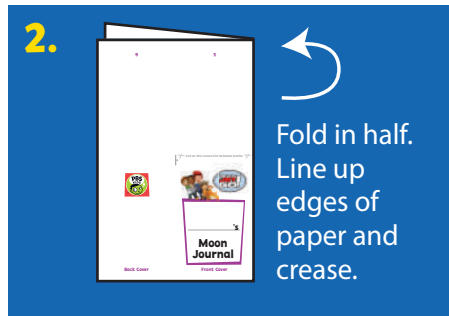


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# Moon Observation Journal Instructions

To create a Moon Observation Journal, print out the next page. Follow the diagrams below to fold the paper into a small book with six pages. Use crayons or markers to decorate the journal to make it your own. Now you are ready to observe the Moon!



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Cut on the crease line between marks.

