

Moon Hunt



Student Information:

NASA wants to fund a new moon mission. Did you know that there is more than one moon in our solar system? Your job, as a NASA Research Scientist, is to research all the moons so that an informed decision can be made.

Use the reference materials in your library or information found on the Internet to complete your research.



Internet Starting Points:

www.solarviews.com or sse.jpl.nasa.gov

Answer This:

1. Which planets have moons? Do any planets have more than one moon or none at all? Record your findings in the table below.

| Planet | Number of Moons |
|--------|-----------------|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |
| 6. | |
| 7. | |
| 8. | |

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2. How many moons are in our solar system?
3. How long does it take the Earth's moon to make one orbit?
4. Scientists are still finding moons around which planet?
5. Who is credited with the discovery of 4 of Neptune's moons?
6. Which of the moons takes the longest amount of time to make one orbit around its planet? (Name the moon, its planet and its revolution period.)
7. Which of the moons is the largest in diameter? (Name the moon, its planet and its measurement(s).
8. Which of Jupiter's moons is the smallest in diameter? (Name the moon and give its measurement.)
9. In general, how would you describe the shape of the majority of the moons found in our solar system?
10. The planet Mars will probably be the next in line for a visit from Earthlings. On the back of this paper give 5 facts about each of Mars' Moons.

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Answer Key

1. Which planets have moons? Do any planets have more than one moon or none at all? Record your findings in the table below.

| Planet | Number of Moons |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1. Mercury | 0 |
| 2. Venus | 0 |
| 3. Earth | 1 |
| 4. Mars | 2 |
| 5. Jupiter | 62 |
| 6. Saturn | 33 |
| 7. Uranus | 27 |
| 8. Neptune | 13 |

IMPORTANT:

Astronomers are still discovering moons around some of the planets. Some of these answers may need to be updated.

2. How many moons are in our solar system?

100

3. How long does it take the Earth's moon to make one orbit?

27.32

4. Scientists are still finding moons around which planet?

Jupiter

5. Who is credited with the discovery of 4 of Neptune's moons and 9 of Uranus'?

Voyager 2

6. Which of the moons takes the longest amount of time to make one orbit around its planet? (Name the moon, its planet and its revolution period.)

Sinope, Jupiter, 758 days (retrograde)

7. Which of the moons is the largest in diameter? (Name the moon, its planet and its measurement(s).)

Ganymede, Jupiter, 5,268 km

8. Which of Jupiter's moons is the smallest in diameter? (Name the moon and give its measurement.)

Leda, Jupiter, 8 km

9. In general, how would you describe the shape of the majority of the moons found in our solar system?

odd shaped, not spherical (other various answers)

10. various answers will be given