



# Assessment Rubric



## The Solar System

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_ Level: \_\_\_\_\_

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Understanding Concepts	Demonstrates a limited understanding of concepts. Requires teacher intervention.	Demonstrates a basic understanding of the concepts.	Demonstrates a good understanding of the concepts.	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the concepts.
Response to the Text	Expresses responses to the text with limited effectiveness, inconsistently supported with proof from the text.	Expresses responses to the text with some effectiveness, supported with some proof from the text.	Expresses responses to the text with appropriate skills supported with appropriate proof.	Expresses thorough and complete responses to the text, supported by concise and effective proof from the text.
Analysis & Application of Concepts	Interprets and applies various concepts in the text with few integrated details and inconsistent analysis.	Interprets and applies various concepts in the text with some detail, but with some inconsistent analysis.	Interprets and applies various concepts in the text with appropriate detail and analysis.	Effectively interprets and applies various concepts in the text with consistent, clear, and effective detail and analysis.

SAMPLE

**STRENGTHS:**

**WEAKNESSES:**

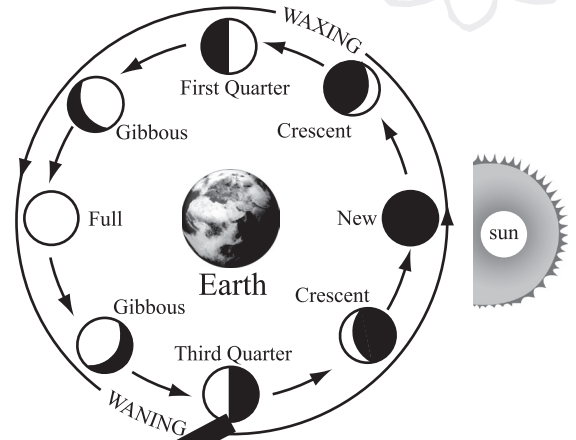
**NEXT STEPS:**



# The Moon



**T**he Earth has one moon. It is called **Luna**. There is no air, water or life on the moon. There are a lot of rocks and **craters**. Craters are big holes in the surface of the moon. They were formed when big **meteorites** crashed into the moon millions of years ago. The moon's **gravity** is not as strong as the gravity on Earth, so you could jump really high on the moon.



When you look up in the night sky, the largest thing you can see is the moon. That is because the moon is our nearest neighbor in space. It is more than 238 800 miles from Earth. It looks like a bright, white ball, but the moon does not actually make its own light. It just **reflects** the light from the Sun. While the Earth orbits the Sun, the moon is orbiting the Earth. It takes the moon twenty-eight days to orbit around the Earth once. This is called a **lunar cycle**.

**MAKE A CONNECTION:** Imagine there is less gravity on Earth for one day. List **THREE** ways that you would make the most of this situation, and give a reason for each one.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

You might have wondered why the moon seems to change shape a little bit each night, from a big, bright ball to a tiny sliver, or **crescent**. The moon doesn't actually change shape; it is always round, but sometimes only parts of it are lit up by the Sun. When the moon is round and full, the Sun is shining directly on it. When you can only see a sliver of the moon lit up, the Sun is shining on the backside of it. The moon has days and nights just like the Earth. When the moon looks mostly dark, you are looking at the part that is experiencing night. Look closely and you might still be able to see the dark outline of the rest of the moon. These changes in the moon's appearance are called the **phases** of the moon. The phases are: new moon, half moon (waxing), gibbous moon (waxing), full moon, gibbous moon (waning), half moon (waning), old moon. **Waxing** means growing and **waning** means shrinking. **Gibbous** means swollen on one side. A **lunar calendar** tells people what phase the moon is in every day.



# Crossword Puzzle!

### Word List

- Asteroid
- Constellation
- Craters
- Geysers
- Gibbous
- Hydrogen
- Luna
- Meteor
- Navigation
- Nebula
- Orbit
- Rings
- Rotate
- Supernova
- Yellow dwarf



### Across

1. To travel in a circular path around an object
4. To spin around an axis
6. These spring up hot gases from Neptune's moon
7. This moon and Earth are known as "double planets"
8. The surface of the Moon has big holes called \_\_\_\_\_
9. This is one of the phases of the lunar cycle
11. The Sun is known as this type of star (2 words)
13. A group of stars that make up a picture
14. Stars can be used to help humans with \_\_\_\_\_

### Down

2. A piece of space rock that orbits the Sun
3. One of the gases that the gas planets are made of
5. Saturn is surrounded by \_\_\_\_\_ made of rock, dust and ice
10. The birth place of a star
12. A star explosion
15. This is also known as a shooting star

# Mars Exploration Rovers

