



What does the Full Moon look like?



*"The Moon leaps
In the Great River's
current...
Floating on the wind,
what do I resemble?"*

DU FU, "Travelling at Night"
(China, Tang Dynasty, 765)

*"The Moon has a face like
the clock in the hall"*

Robert Louis Stevenson

What do we see in the night sky? We see stars, the lights from aeroplanes, planets, the Moon. Of all the objects in the sky, it is perhaps the Moon we love the most. All over the world, regardless of where they live, children search for and feel connected to the Moon. What do they see?

★ GOAL: Global citizenship, to reinforce our universal connection to the Moon, learn about what others see in the Moon.

★ MATERIALS: Transparencies, a projector, marker pens, Big pictures of the Moon, Stories about the Moon i.e. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Man_in_the_Moon

★ AGE GROUP: Supervised, group activity for 5 years and up.



WHAT TO DO:

- Project a big picture of the Moon. Add transparencies on top of it, illustrating figures from stories that come from all over the globe. These can include a story about the phases of the Moon, a Chinese rabbit, an African crocodile, the man in the Moon etc.
- Turn off the projector. Give each child their own Moon printout, marker pens and a clear transparency. Placing the transparency on top of the Moon, ask children to find and draw the same figures they have just seen projected.
- Clean the transparency and start again. This time, ask children to outline new shapes on the surface of the Moon. What other figures, animals, images of their own invention can they find?
- When the children have finished, collect the transparencies. Project the outlined children's transparencies onto the original large image of the Moon.
- Ask the children to explain to the whole group what they see and point out the particular features.

Extensions:

Colour in the outlines.

Write a story to explain the origins of the figures.

Reiterate that all over the world, we all see the same 'face' of the Moon, but at different angles.

Source: UNAWE Germany

UNAWE is an international programme to inspire young underprivileged children with the beauty and scale of the universe. Universe Awareness illustrates the multicultural origins of modern astronomy in an effort to broaden children's minds, awaken their curiosity in science and stimulate global citizenship and tolerance.

Universe Awareness is imagination, excitement and fun in the universe for the very young.

