

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

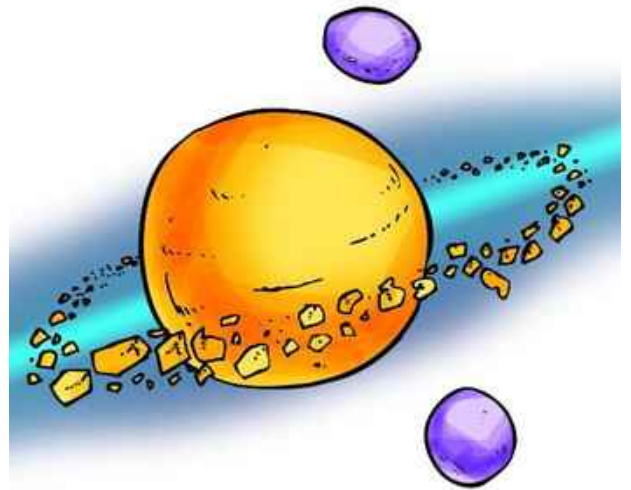
# Moons in Orbit

by Katie Clark

Did you know that other planets have moons, too? These moons are called *satellites*. A satellite is something that *orbits*, or moves around a planet.

Some of these moons are small. Some of these moons are big. Some of them are really amazing!

Mars is our closest neighbor who has a moon—in fact, Mars has two of them! Mars' moons are named Phobos and Deimos. These moons are shaped like potatoes! Phobos gets closer to Mars each time it rotates around the planet. This means that one day it could crash into Mars!



Jupiter has over sixty moons. Ganymede is the largest out of any of the planets' moons. It is bigger than the planet Mercury! Another amazing moon is Io. It is full of volcanoes!

Saturn has big rings around it. These rings are made of moons that broke apart, and still orbit the planet. Saturn has fifty-three moons!

Uranus has a famous moon, too. Titania is known for earthquakes! Some of Titania's fault lines are a thousand miles long! All together Uranus has twenty-seven moons.

The planet Neptune was named after a god of the sea. Scientists named Neptune's moons after other sea gods! Triton was the first moon of Neptune that scientists found. It rotates in a different direction from the planet. Neptune has thirteen moons.

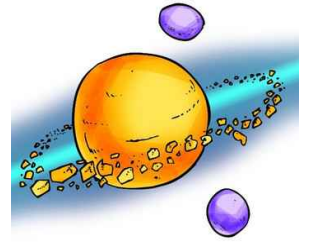
Mercury and Venus are the only two planets in our solar system that don't have moons. They are so close to the sun that any moons would be pulled away by the sun's gravity.

New moons, planets, and stars are discovered every day. Who will discover the next one? It might be you!

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1. What is this article mostly about?
  - a. the solar system
  - b. Earth's moon
  - c. planets orbiting the sun
  - d. moons of different planets
2. Which is the largest moon in our solar system?
  - a. Jupiter
  - b. Saturn
  - c. Ganymede
  - d. Titania

3. Mars' moon Phobos may crash into Mars one day. Why?

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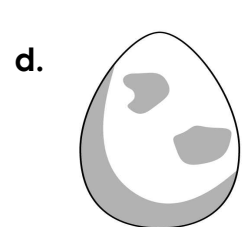
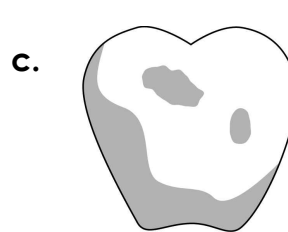
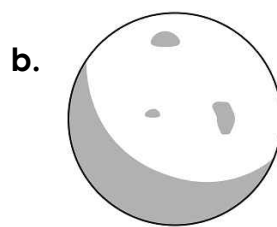
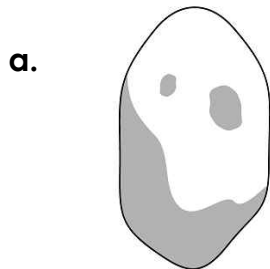
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4. Why don't Mercury and Venus have moons?

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5. Look at the moons pictured below.



Which moon is Deimos? \_\_\_\_\_

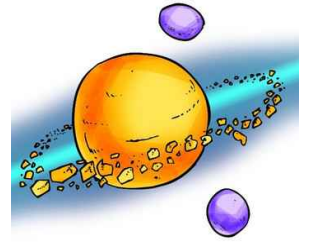
Explain how you know. \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Moons in Orbit

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Match each of the the vocabulary words on the left with the correct definition on the right.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. satellite

a. ringed planet

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Saturn

b. force that pulls objects toward the center of a star or planet

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. volcanoes

c. openings in a planet's surface or crust

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. earthquakes

d. vegetables that grow underground

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. rotates

e. events in which there is shaking and shifting of the ground

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. gravity

f. spins on an axis

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. famous

g. object which orbits a planet

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. potatoes

h. well-known

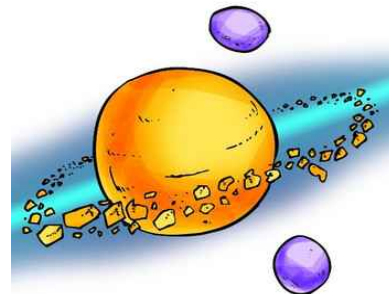
**Now try this:** Re-read the article and highlight each of the vocabulary words.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Moons in Orbit

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Choose one moon in our solar system. Use the Internet or encyclopedia to research five interesting facts about the moon you chose.



**Name of Moon:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Planet That It Orbits:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fact 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Fact 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Fact 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Fact 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

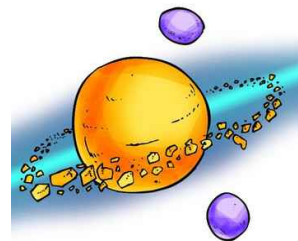
**Fact 5:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWER KEY

# Moons in Orbit

by Katie Clark



1. What is this article mostly about? **d**
  - a. the solar system
  - b. Earth's moon
  - c. planets orbiting the sun
  - d. **moons of different planets**
2. Which is the largest moon in our solar system? **c**
  - a. Jupiter
  - b. Saturn
  - c. **Ganymede**
  - d. Titania

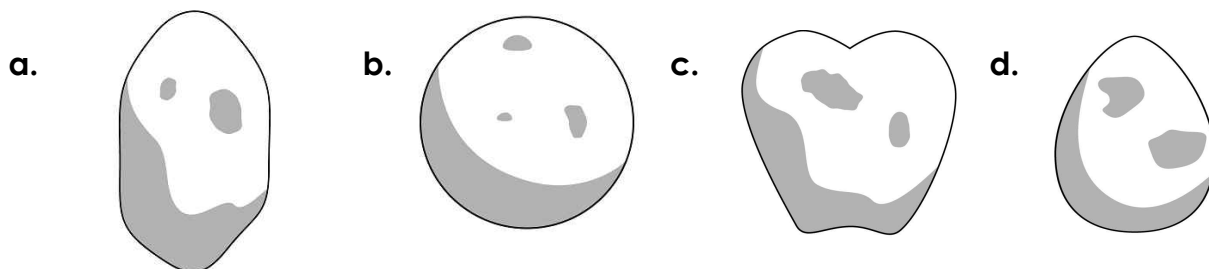
3. Mars' moon Phobos may crash into Mars one day. Why?

**Phobos gets closer to Mars each time it rotates around the planet.**

4. Why don't Mercury and Venus have moons?

**They are so close to the sun that any moons would be pulled away by the sun's gravity.**

5. Look at the moons pictured below.



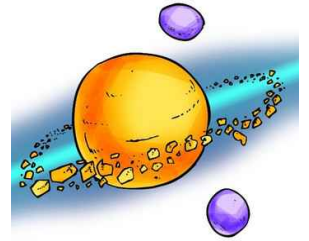
Which moon is Deimos? **a**

Explain how you know. **Deimos is potato-shaped.**

# ANSWER KEY

## Moons in Orbit

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Match each of the the vocabulary words on the left with the correct definition on the right.

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>g</b> 1. satellite   | <b>a.</b> ringed planet  |
| <b>a</b> 2. Saturn      | <b>b.</b> force that pulls objects toward the center of a star or planet |
| <b>c</b> 3. volcanoes   | <b>c.</b> openings in a planet's surface or crust                        |
| <b>e</b> 4. earthquakes | <b>d.</b> vegetables that grow underground                               |
| <b>f</b> 5. rotates     | <b>e.</b> events in which there is shaking and shifting of the ground    |
| <b>b</b> 6. gravity     | <b>f.</b> spins on an axis   |
| <b>h</b> 7. famous      | <b>g.</b> object which orbits a planet                                   |
| <b>d</b> 8. potatoes    | <b>h.</b> well-known   |

**Now try this:** Re-read the article and highlight each of the vocabulary words.