



Chinese New Year

Did you know that the timing of the Chinese New Year is not based on the calendar that we use? The Chinese New Year is based on the ancient Chinese calendar and the phases of the moon.

In modern times, it takes place on the date of the new moon between January 21st and February 21st. This year the date is February 5th. The Chinese New Year is a time of great celebration. People travel to their family homes to visit and celebrate. It is the time of year when the children get new clothes, toys, and special red envelopes of money from their relatives. There are parades with dragons and evenings of fireworks. Before the New Year's celebrations, the families clean and cook, because during the celebrations it is forbidden to do both.

Since the Chinese New Year is based on the phases of the Moon, this week's activities are all about the moon! Step outside after dark and see if you can spot the moon. On the 5th, the moon will not be visible at all. Every night the visible moon will get slightly larger. Remember, the moon always stays the same size. Just the part of it that is visible to us on Earth becomes larger as more of the moon emerges from the shadows.

Read more about it!

A New Year's Reunion by Li-Qiong Yu

The Runaway Wok by Ying Chang Compestine

Phases of the Moon by Gillia M. Olson

The Moon Book by Gail Gibbons



DALLAS ARBORETUM

Rory Meyers Children's
Adventure Garden

Some fun Moon facts:

- The Earth has only one moon, but Jupiter has 63 moons.
- Even though the United States is the only country that has landed astronauts on the moon, the moon is considered international common property by the International Moon Treaty.
- The moon orbits around the Earth like the Earth orbits around the Sun.

- It takes 27 days, 7 hours, 43 minutes and 11.6 seconds for the moon to orbit around the Earth.
- The way that the moon orbits the Earth means that we only see one side of the moon.
- The only parts of the moon we can see from Earth are the parts that are reflecting the sunlight back to us.
- When the moon looks like it is getting bigger, it is called waxing. When it looks like it is getting smaller, it is called waning.
- Galileo made the first map of the moon after he developed the first telescope in 1609.
- The far side of the moon was not seen until a satellite took a picture in 1959.
- Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon on July 21, 1969.

Check out These Websites:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/au/discover/science/space/the-phases-of-the-moon/>

<https://kidsastronomy.com/solar-system/phases-of-the-moon/>



Let's look at the Moon!



Stepping outside tomorrow night, what shape is it? What about next week? Keep track of the moon's shapes by drawing them each night for the month, that's a real challenge!

Or you can have a tasty time creating the moon's cycle with just 3 materials. A pen, a paper plate, and some tasty chocolate crème cookies!

