

## EXPLORING THE MOON FROM YOUR BACKYARD

**YOU NEED:** A CLEAR NIGHT WHEN THE MOON IS ABOUT HALF FULL, YOUR EYES, AND A PAIR OF BINOCULARS.

### WHAT TO DO

GO OUTSIDE AND OBSERVE THE MOON WITH JUST YOUR EYES. LOOK AS CAREFULLY AS YOU CAN. FOR BEST VIEWING, DON'T STARE AT THE MOON; LET YOUR EYES DANCE ALL AROUND IT.

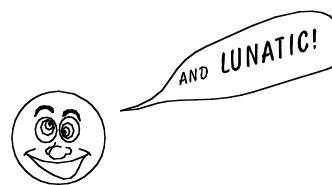
DRAW WHAT YOU SEE ON YOUR **LUNAR OBSERVATION** SHEET.

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED, LOOK FOR OTHER DETAILS WITH YOUR BINOCULARS.

**NOW GO TO YOUR LUNAR OBSERVATION SHEET AND COMPLETE IT.**

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Did you know THAT THE MOON HAS A NAME? **LUNA**  
THAT IS WHERE WE GET THE WORD **LUNAR** . . .

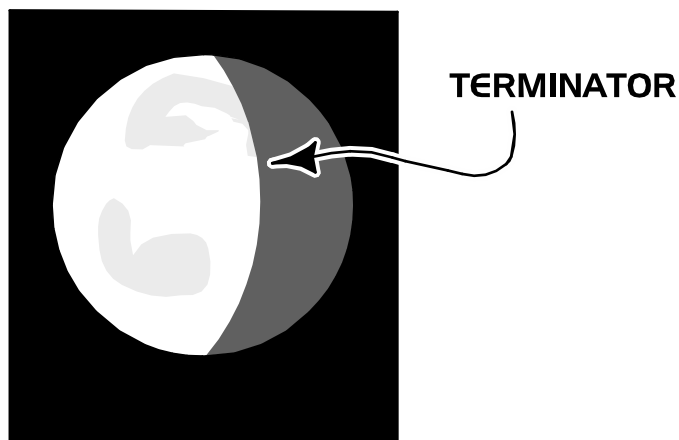


### *IMPORTANT TERMS*

**LUNAR** IS THE WORD WE USE FOR ANYTHING RELATED TO THE MOON.

THE LINE BETWEEN THE DARK AND LIGHT SIDES OF THE MOON IS CALLED THE **TERMINATOR**.

AT THE TERMINATOR IT'S EITHER SUNRISE OR SUNSET SO SHADOWS ARE ALWAYS LONGEST THERE. THIS MAKES IT EASIER TO SEE LUNAR FEATURES ALONG THE TERMINATOR.



YOU CAN ALSO SEE THE **MARES** (LATIN FOR **SEAS**). THESE ARE THE DARKER AREAS THAT LOOK LIKE OCEANS. THEY ARE NOT OCEANS OF WATER, BUT THEY WERE ONCE OCEANS OF MOLTEN LAVA! SOME PEOPLE SEE SHAPES IN THE MARES, LIKE THE MAN IN THE MOON OR THE RABBIT IN THE MOON. CAN YOU IMAGINE ANYTHING IN THE MARES?

# LUNAR OBSERVATIONS:

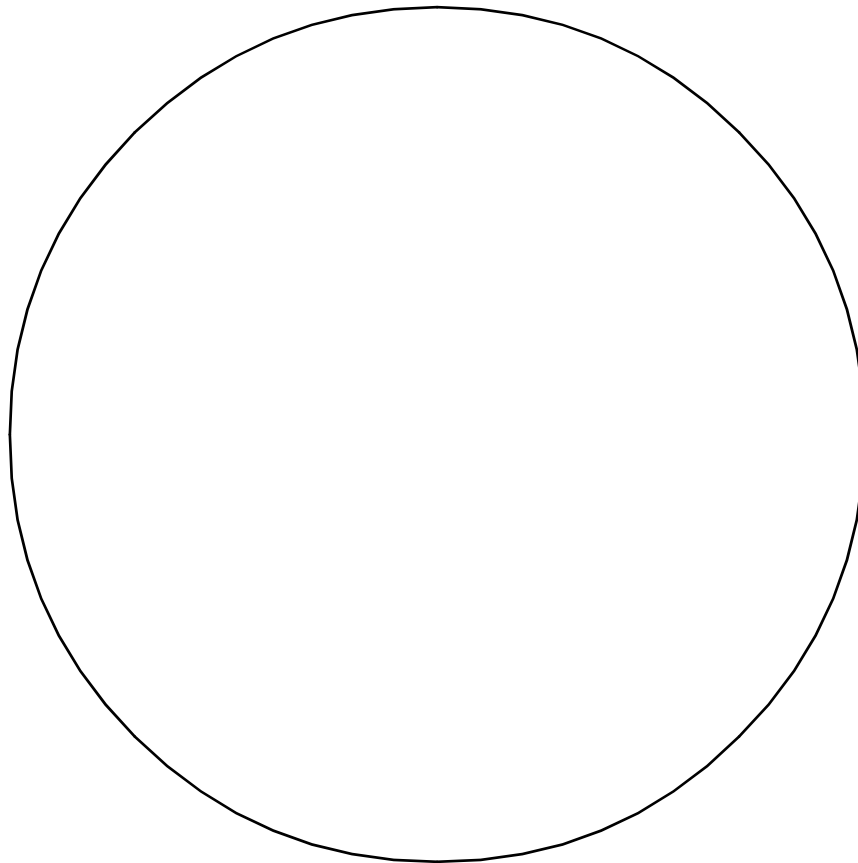
ASTRONOMER: \_\_\_\_\_

STARDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

USING ONLY YOUR EYES, LOOK FOR AS MUCH DETAIL AS YOU CAN ON THE MOON.  
SKETCH IT IN BELOW.



When you have finished, look at the moon again, but this time through the binoculars.

Can you see any large craters through the binoculars? If so, draw them in.

If you look closely, you can probably see smaller craters along the terminator.  
Do you see them? If so, draw them in.

Do you see other details on the moon? I bet you can!