

Lesson 8

Directions: Read the following passages. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

The Sun

The sun is one of billions of stars in the universe. Like all other stars, it is made up of hot gases that produce light and heat. To people on Earth, the sun is more important than any other star. If the sun did not provide heat and light, then life could not exist on Earth. Because of how the sun rotates, scientists can tell it is not a solid body but is made of gases. The sun's rotation period at its equator is about 25 days. At its poles the period is about 31 days. By contrast, the rotation period of a solid body such as Earth is the same at every point on its surface. Only a very small fraction of the sun's light and heat, one part out of two billion, reaches the Earth. The rest is lost in space. Yet what reaches us is enough to light up the entire sky during the day.

The Moon

The moon is Earth's closest neighbor in space, so it was the first object in space to be visited by human beings. The moon's diameter is 400 times smaller than the sun's, and the moon weighs 80 times less than the Earth. It takes the moon about 29 1/2 days to revolve around the Earth. Unlike the Earth, the moon does not rotate on its axis. The same side of the moon always faces Earth, and the other side always faces away from Earth. The moon is made of ground-up rocks, bits of glass, and scattered chunks of rock. It is dark gray to brown in color. The brightly shining moon is a beautiful sight in the night sky. Yet when the moon shines, it is actually reflecting light from the sun. This reflected light is the reason the moon appears in different shapes and sizes. It does not really change shape. It only seems to change because we see the bright side of the moon from different directions over the course of a month.

Use with page 36.

Lesson 8**Practice: Using Cue Words**

Directions: Use “The Sun” and “The Moon” to answer the following questions.

1. Why does the moon appear to change in shape?

Explain

Write the cue word that helps you know what kind of answer is expected.

2. How does the passage compare the sun to all other stars?

- A** It says that the sun rotates in about 25 days. **C** It says they are all the same size.
B It says that the sun is one of billions of stars. **D** It says they are all made up of hot gases.

Explain

Write the cue word that helps you know what kind of answer is expected.

3. What is the difference between the sun’s rotation and the rotation of the Earth?

Explain

Write the cue word that helps you know what kind of answer is expected.

CHECK

Did you use cue words to help you find the correct answer?

Use with page 37.