

Name _____

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.**A Ball of Rock**

You are probably not surprised when you see Earth's moon, but you might be surprised by some facts about it.

We know that the moon is about 4.5 billion years old because that is the age of the rocks astronauts brought back from the moon. Most experts believe Earth is about the same age.

Did you know that if you speak on the moon, no one would hear you? On Earth, you can hear sounds because sound travels through air. Since there is no air on the moon, no sounds can be heard. Therefore, when astronauts walked on the moon, they could not hear their footsteps.

Also, because there is no air, the sky is always black on the moon. It is the light traveling through air that makes the sky look blue on Earth.

There is no wind on the moon either. Footprints left on the moon by astronauts will be there for millions of years because there is no wind or air to disturb the footprints.

Scientists once thought that the moon had no water and that nothing could live there. Recently they found frozen water, so scientists now believe it is possible that there may have been life on the moon.

The moon may be an old ball of rock, but without it, our sky would not be nearly as interesting.

Turn the page.

Answer the questions below.

1 Why did the author write this selection?

- to offer an opinion about the Earth's moon
- to share some interesting facts about the moon
- to encourage you to look at the moon more often
- to tell you a story that happened on the moon

2 What conclusion can you draw from this selection?

- The moon would be a good place for humans to live.
- Earth's moon is very much like Earth.
- The moon would seem quiet and dark to a human.
- Life on the moon has never been possible.

3 What can you conclude about scientists from this selection?

- They have learned everything there is to know about the moon.
- They know how to determine the age of rocks from the moon.
- They are more interested in learning about Earth than the moon.
- They have walked around on the moon along with the astronauts.

4 What is one reason astronauts need to wear spacesuits on the moon?

5 Based on the selection, what can you conclude about the frozen water found on the moon?

Common Core State Standards

Question 1: Informational Text 2. Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.
Questions 2–5: Informational Text 3. Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.