

Name _____ Date _____

Have you ever gone out at night and looked up to see the moon shining bright? The moon was likely made about 4.5 billion years ago when a large object hit the Earth and blasted out rocks that went into orbit and melted together, cooled, and is now the moon we see today. Even after the moon formed, rocks continued to hit the surface causing damage in the form of craters. If you use a telescope to look at the surface of the moon you can see the damage. When we see the moon from Earth we can only see one side, the other is always turned away. When it appears the moon gets larger each night, it is waxing. As the moon cycles through and begins to get smaller after a full moon, it is known as waning.

When the damage was being done to the moon's surface, the surface of the Earth was also damaged. However, the Earth has an atmosphere much different from the moon with different forms of weather, wind, and rain. So the earth has repaired the damage done over time.

Fill in the blanks below based on what you read.

Even though the moon is in the sky every night, we on Earth can only see _____ side of it. What we can see is amazing. The moon was formed about _____ years ago when an explosion made rocks fly into space and melt together over time. Even after the moon formed, rocks continued to hit it leaving _____ on the surface. These can be seen using a _____. The moon goes through cycles in which it gets bigger and smaller. When it seems to get bigger it is called _____, while getting smaller is called _____.

Answer Sheet

Even though the moon is in the sky every night, we on Earth can only see one side of it. What we can see is amazing. The moon was formed about 4.5 billion years ago when an explosion made rocks fly into space and melt together over time. Even after the moon formed, rocks continued to hit it leaving craters on the surface. These can be seen using a telescope. The moon goes through cycles in which it gets bigger and smaller. When it seems to get bigger it is called waxing, while getting smaller is called waning.