



Activity 13: The Moons of the Solar System

Question: What are similarities and differences in the characteristics of the moons in the solar system?

Resources

Access the following websites using these links.

- Explore the Solar System (Note: Flash required)
<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/solar-system-explorer/en/#/review/solar-system-explorer/game.swf>
- Moons of the Solar System
<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/solarsystem/moons>
- Moons in Solar System
https://www.windows2universe.org/?page=/our_solar_system/moons_table.html

Instructions

Understanding that there are similarities and differences in the characteristics of the moons of the planets in the solar system is important. They are different from each other in so many ways, but they are also similar in some ways. You will work through some websites where you will research some of the moons found in the solar system. You will place the information on the *Moons in Our Solar System Chart*.

1. To research the moons, use the following websites:

- Explore the Solar System
- Moons of the Solar System
- Moons in Solar System

2. If you need additional information, you can conduct an Internet search.

3. After you have completed the research on the moons in the solar system, use the *Venn Diagram* to compare one of the other moons to Earth's Moon (Luna).

Need a Hint? Are the moons similar in size, surface conditions, or gravity?

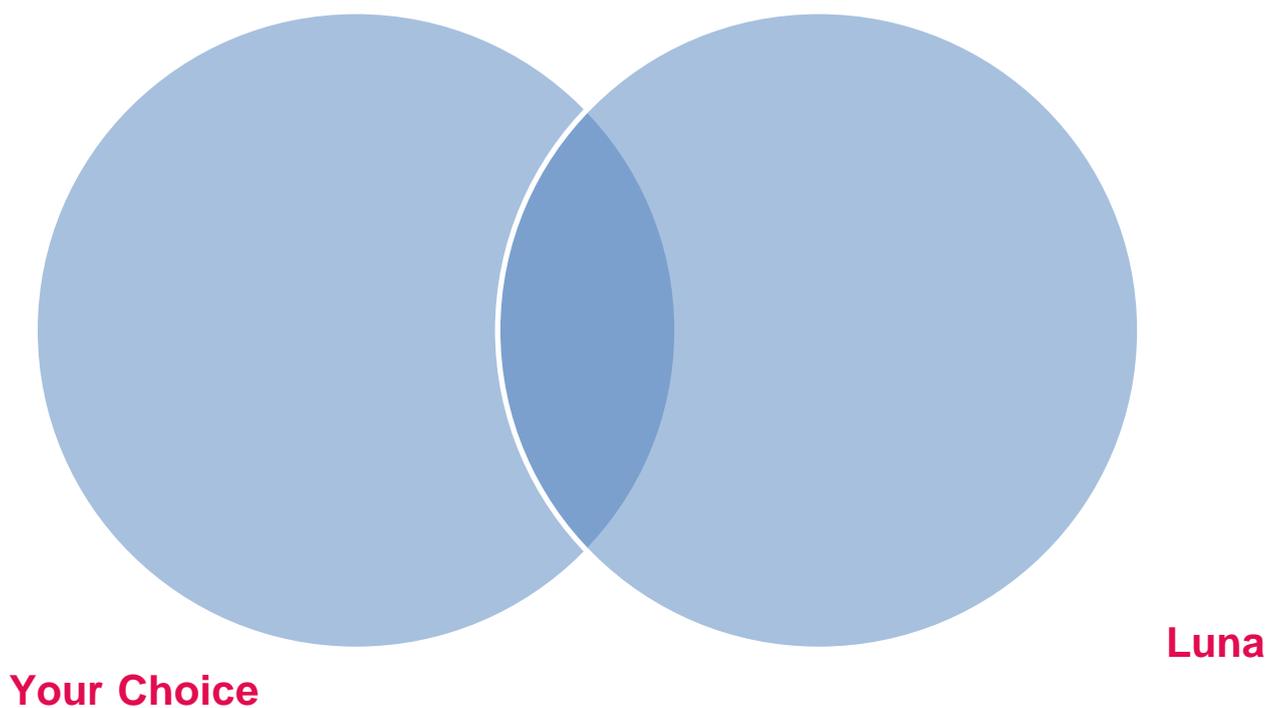
Moons in our Solar System Chart

	Luna	Callisto	Io	Titan	Ganymede
Planet it revolves around					
Distance from planet (km)					
Diameter (km)					
Surface Temperature (OC)					
Surface Gravity					
Surface Conditions					

Comparing Moons

For this activity, you will compare Earth's moon, Luna, to another moon of your choice.

- Draw a Venn Diagram on paper as per the example or use the chart below to complete this activity.
- Read the information you gathered in the *Moons in our Solar System Chart* above. Choose a moon to compare to Luna.
- Place information specific to Luna in the left circle or column, then place information specific to the second moon in the right circle or column. Information that is similar for both Luna and the other moon goes in the center circle or column.



Luna	Both	Your Choice (Provide the Name of the Moon)



The Venn diagram/ chart is also an Exit Pass.