

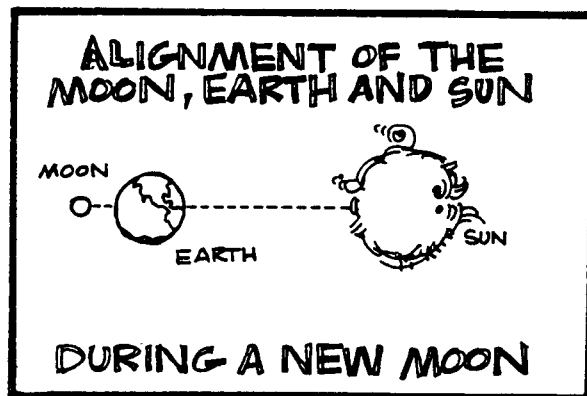
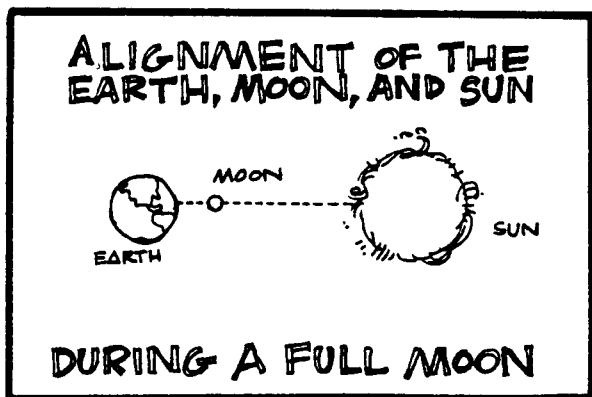
SP8: Spring Tides



The term “spring tides” refers to the high and low tides that occur when the moon is in the new and full moon positions twice during a month. When the moon, earth, and sun are aligned (as in the illustrations below), these high and low tides are created. Spring tides can occur at any time of the year.

Neap tides also occur twice a month and are caused by the position of the sun and moon being at right angles. Neap tides are less dramatic low and high tides. They occur during the first and last quarter phases of the moon.

At different times of the day, the tides are higher or lower. Almanacs, newspapers, and weather stations report on these differences in height and changes in the tide. These are good resources for your students to investigate and review.



At this time, you will want to review with your students the information on the phases of the moon (see activity F10). As the moon revolves around the earth, we observe the light on the moon. When a new moon occurs, the earth and moon are on the same side of the sun. The moon is not visible at this time because we see its dark side.

However, in the full moon phase, the moon appears very full and bright. We see its lit side. The sun and moon are on different sides of the earth. It takes about two weeks for the moon to change from the new moon phase to this full moon phase. If a lunar eclipse occurs, it happens during the full phase. The sun shines on the earth and the moon is shadowed, as shown in the illustration.

Name _____ Date _____

Spring Tides Chart

Source of information (newspaper, television, etc.):

Time of morning high: _____

Time of morning low: _____

Time of evening high: _____

Time of evening low: _____

Phase of moon: _____

Name of city or dock: _____

Review illustrations of the moon, earth, and sun. Then draw a picture below of the alignment of the earth, sun, and moon at high tide.