



Sun, Moon & Stars

(Target Audience: All Ages)

For as long as people have been telling stories, tales have been told to explain how the world was created and why things look the way that they do. Many myths and legends from the Ancient World tried to answer the questions of “why” and “how” the wonders of nature came to be. Some of the most common types of creation stories talk about the sun, moon, and stars and how they came to be.

1. Have a display of books about different mythologies (Greek, Roman, Viking, etc.), Pourquoi Tales, Creation Stories, as well as age appropriate fiction and/or picture books about the sun, moon, stars, night-time, etc. on hand.
2. Choose stories to share with the children.
 - a. For older children, choose tales about how the sun, moon, and/or stars came to be. This “why” tale can come from any tradition that you like or perhaps tell a variety of stories from several “lost worlds”. (There are many story collections with creation tales available.)
Stories can be read, acted out, or told in either a traditional storytelling method or done as a participation story.
 - b. For younger children, choose simple “why” tales or books about night-time or sleeping.
3. Ask the children to use their imaginations to create their own “why” tales.
 - a. Older children can write and/or illustrate their own stories. Provide pen, paper and art supplies.
This can be done as an individual activity or in a group (perhaps as a “fill-in-the-blank” story or a circle story where everyone tells a little bit of the tale before letting the person beside them take-over the tale).
(This could also be done as a handout for a take-home activity.)
 - b. Younger children may not be able to “write” a story but they can use their imaginations to think about why things look the way they do. Why not start a talk about what clouds are made of (cotton candy, scrunched up paper, lost socks?!) or why the stars only come out a night (because they go to school during the day, or are sleeping, or have to take baths so they will be all shiny when we go to bed?!)
4. Have the children “Create their own Universe” with a craft project such as...
 - a. Use black construction paper and white chalk to draw pictures of shooting stars, glowing moons, and other night sky favourites.
 - b. Make a sun, moon, and stars mobile out of construction paper, foam pieces or other craft supplies. Be sure to have plenty of string or yarn around and balance the difficulty level with the age of the children participating.
 - c. Cut stars out of yellow construction paper and let the children decorate them with crayons and glitter. Stars can be glued on to a black background. Be

sure to tell the children to put the stars up in their bedroom so that they have a star to wish on every night (even when they can't see the real stars!).

- d. Make magic wands by taping pre-cut yellow stars to straws. The children can decorate their wands with stickers, ribbon, glitter, etc.
- e. Make door hangers with the sun on one side and the moon and stars on the other. Pre-cut the hangers and pieces to be glued on if you have really small children. Use the doorhanger found in the previous section as a template.