

Read this old Native American story. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Moon and Her Children

A Native American Tale

PRACTICE TEST 1

The little girl asked her grandfather about the moon. The little girl's grandfather said he would teach her. He said he would tell her about what the old ones said had happened in the sky. He said he would tell his granddaughter about Moon and her children.

"At first," Grandfather began, "all the animals were pleased with Sun, but they soon found Sun was careless. Some days Sun could be moody. On other days, Sun could be angry. Sometimes Sun stayed too long on the path made for him under the earth. This left the animals in darkness for a long time. So Little Turtle made the bright, warm Moon to light the world when Sun was gone. One day Sun looked across the sky and saw Moon. Little Turtle gave Moon to Sun for his wife. Sun was very happy. They had many children. These children were the stars.

"One day Sun became very angry with Moon. That night when Sun went under the earth, he made Moon go with him because he had made a plan to get rid of her.



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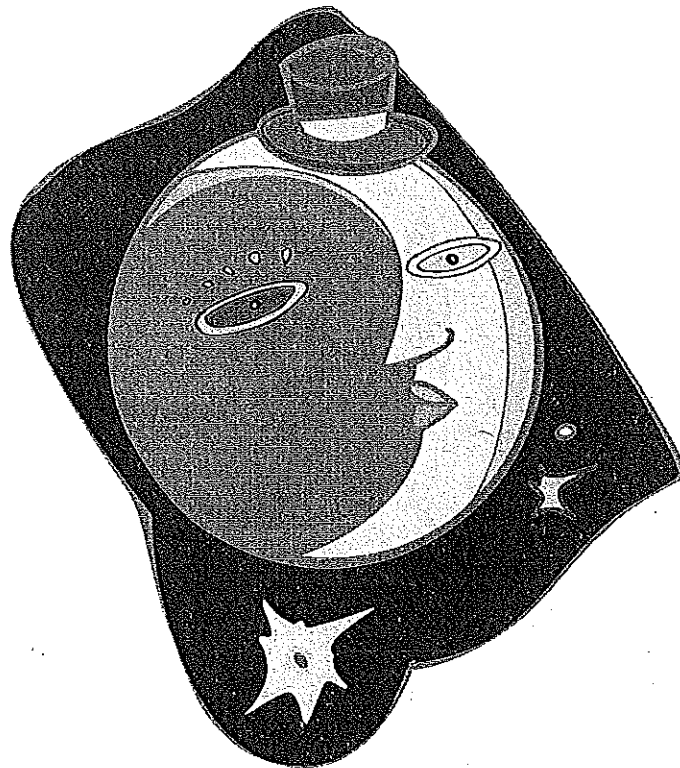
"But Little Turtle was very clever. She knew about the trouble Sun had with Moon and hurried after them. When Little Turtle found them, Moon was badly hurt. All her heat was gone. That is why Moon's rays are now said to be cold. Most of Moon's light was gone, too. That is why Moon shines with a dim and soft glow. Little Turtle saw Sun had made her shrink in fear. Moon had become very small. All that was left of her was the thin little sliver that was Crescent Moon, which you see in the sky shining like silver.

"Little Turtle helped Moon. With her help Moon slowly grew full, round, and beautiful again. Moon became happy again because she thought her husband, Sun, would be pleased with her once more.

"It was not to be. Sun did not change. He could still be angry on some days and distant on others. This made Moon so sad that she became smaller and smaller, until she again became the thin little crescent moon.

"Each time Moon grew round and full, she hoped beyond all else that her husband, Sun, would love her. Sadly, his anger grew and was too great. He had no kind words for her. Then she would shrink again to a narrow shining crescent seen in the sky above the hills.

"So it is to this day," Grandfather told the little girl, "and so it must now be to the end of the world."



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