**What Causes the Tides?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Div: \_\_\_\_\_\_

**Tides** are the regular rising and falling of the sea. You have seen this if you have been to the ocean. When it is HIGH tide, the water has come a long way up the beach and at LOW tide you will see lots of the shore because the sea has gone a long way out. There are about TWO high tides and TWO low tides a day.

1. *Define* ***Tides****:*

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  Tides are due to the **gravity** of the **Moon** trying to pull the part of the sea closest to it towards it. In the (exaggerated) diagram below, there will be a **high** tide at point A, called the **near** tide, because of this pulling effect. There will also be a high tide on the opposite side of the Earth at point C, called the **opposite** tide. At points B and D there will be a **low** tide.



 **B**

A C

 D

The Earth **rotates** once every 24 hours which means that the places on the Earth where HIGH and LOW tides occur are always changing. The diagram below shows where HIGH and LOW tides will be 6 hours after the diagram above. There are about TWO (2) high tides and TWO (2) low tides a day, which means we have FOUR (4) tides per day!

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| http://www.cmdowns.com/images/force-motion/tides2.jpg |

1. *How many* ***high tides*** *are there per day? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
2. *How many* ***low tides*** *are there per day? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
3. *How many tides do we have in total every day? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Spring Tides and Neap Tides**

The **Sun** also has a gravitational effect on the sea. Although the Sun is larger than the Moon, it is **further** away from the Earth, which means that it has **less** effect on our tides. Twice a month, during the **new moon** and the **full moon**, the Moon and the Sun are in line with the Earth and so they pull together. This causes very high tides and very low tides called **SPRING tides**.

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Twice a month, during the **first** and **third (or last) quarters**, the Sun and Moon are at **right angles** to each other, and so their pulls sort of cancel each other out, and are not as great. This causes much smaller tides. These are called **NEAP tides**.

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**QUESTIONS ON TIDES**

1. *Label the* ***High*** *and* ***Low*** *Tides on the Diagram below.*

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| http://www.cmdowns.com/images/force-motion/tides1.jpg |

1. What are tides caused by?

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1. Which exerts **stronger gravitational pull** on earth, the sun or the moon?

SUN or MOON

1. In most places on earth, **how often do high and low tides occur**?

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1. Label each diagram with either **Spring Tide** or **Neap Tide**





1. If it is LOW tide at a harbor at 1:00 am, at about what time would you expect it to be HIGH tide in the afternoon?
2. 7:00am B. 1:00 pm C. 7:00 pm D. 1:00 am
3. If it is HIGH tide at 1:00 am, when would you expect the next HIGH tide to be?
4. 7:00am B. 1:00 pm C. 7:00 pm D. 1:00 am
5. The following two diagrams show the position of the Sun, Moon and Earth. Circle the one that would produce the HIGHEST tides? Give reasons for your answer.

Your reason: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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