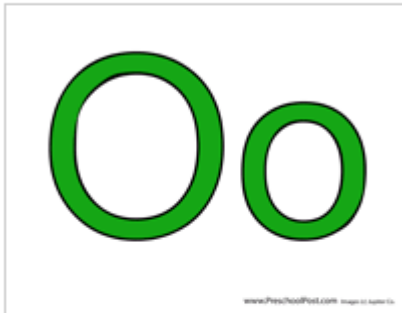


Preschool Post

Lesson 18



www.PreschoolPost.com



Letter: O

Preschool Theme: Moon/Night

Bible Theme: Children will have a blast learning about the Moon, and how even when they are fast asleep God is still watching over them. This is a wonderful comfort to children, and is a very important truth about the character of God.

Morning Circle: Introduce [the letter "O"](#) by playing a guessing game with the children. Say something like, "I'm thinking of a word that begins with "o," and it has feathers, is tall, and runs really fast." (Ostrich.) Give other clues as needed. [Other words to guess](#) could be "ocean," "ox," "owl," "oval," "oatmeal," and "onion."

Transition into today's topic by discussing the recent Christmas holiday. Spend some time just talking with the children about what they did, where they went, and what they got for Christmas. Remind them that the whole Christmas season is celebrated because of one special night. The night Jesus was born! Explain that today's lesson is all about the nighttime. God made the night for very special reasons, and He was very happy when He made the night! What are some special things about night? The moon, stars, darkness, night animals, cooler air, sleep, dreams, etc.

Read: [Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me](#), by Eric Carle. Use the pictures to stimulate discussion about how the moon looks to us at different times. Have the children ever noticed the moon sometimes looks more orange and bigger when it's close to the horizon? How it looks very white and small as a fingernail when it's very high? Play night noises from a nature recording in the background while reading the story.

Music & Movement:

1. Take a trip to the moon! Guide children on a space launch: get into their space suits, walk onto the space shuttle, (waving at all the onlookers,) strap themselves in, radio mission control, countdown,

feel the forces of gravity as the shuttle launches into space, feel weightlessness, prepare to land on the moon, and then, the ultimate...moonwalk! Jump and leap on the moon. Drive moon buggies! Plant the flag and stake your claim, then come home to Earth again! After everyone is safe and sound back on the ground, watch a clip of the original moon landing with the children.

2. To focus on the letter of the day, have an "O"utrageous "O"rchestra! Hand out outrageous instruments to the children like kazoos, clappers, jingle bells, triangles, party blowers, rainsticks, recorders, shakers, windchimes, blocks, and slide whistles. Form an "o"val, and march to the music!

Snack: Moon crackers. Cut swiss cheese into circles and place on round crackers. Looks like the moon IS made of swiss cheese!

Centers:

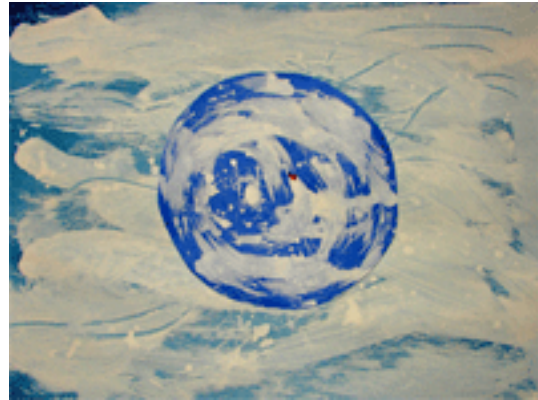
1. Moon rocks. Have a variety of rocks available along with magnifying glasses, reading lights, scales and balances, and scrap paper. Set up some posters and large books with pictures of meteors and moon rocks. Explain that although these rocks aren't actually from the moon, rocks from outer space often look very much like Earth rocks. Encourage the children to smell the rocks, feel their roughness, try to make marks with different rocks on scrap paper, and sort and weigh the rocks.

2. Astronaut dramatic play. Set up an area to be a moonscape. Use a large box like a refrigerator shipping box or other large appliance box and decorate it to be a rocketship or space shuttle. Spread white or gray sheets and blankets around the floor, using a few pillows underneath to create bumps and hills. Provide old white or gray snow suits or sweatpants and sweatshirts for "space suits." Use a variety of helmets for space helmets and old plastic safety goggles. Headphones can be used to add extra fun, but be sure you don't mind them being played with! Let the children ride trikes around for space buggies. You could even scatter small rocks or pebbles around and provide "scientific" lab containers for the children to collect moon samples for study. If you have space sound effects, use them in this corner.

3. If you have access to a "[Moon in My Room](#)" toy by Uncle Milton, set up a corner to display and discuss the phases of the moon using it. This is a very popular educational toy and is well-received and easily understood by children. If you do not have access to this toy, set up a discovery corner with posters and books set up showing the moon and its phases. Make moon puzzles for the children to put together. Take a yellow circle and cut it into varying crescent shapes. Help the children put it back together. Explain that the appearance of the moon is really only a result of the Earth's shadow being cast upon the moon. Provide a lamp and two balls to demonstrate how one ball passing in front of the light casts a shadow onto the other ball. Discuss how it is day on one side of the earth while it is night on the other. Ask the children if they can explain why. Ask whether they've ever seen the moon in the daytime. Explore the children's questions.

Art Activity:

Make moon pictures based on those in Eric Carle's book, [Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me](#). Give each child a large rectangle of blue paper. Let them brush white paint across it for a background, then let it dry. Next, give each child a circle of darker blue for the moon. Show them the pictures of the moon in the story, and ask them to create their own moons based on their responses to Carle's artwork. Provide white paint and let them fingerpaint their own beautiful moons. After the moons are dry, paste them onto the prepared backgrounds. Let the children embellish their creations further by placing gold and silver star stickers into their night skies.

**Bible Storytime:**

Read: [Goodnight, Moon](#), by Margaret Wise Brown. Talk about how God watches over us all the time, even when we're sleeping, and that He never sleeps. Discuss how God provides everything we need, including the sun to warm and light our days, and the nighttime with its own restful light.

Bible Verse Bracelets:

"God made two big lights, the larger to take charge of Day, the smaller to be in charge of Night; and he made the stars." [Genesis 1:16](#)

Song:

"He's Got the Whole World In His Hands" (Traditional)

"He's got the whole world, in His hands,
He's got the whole world, in His hands,
He's got the whole world, in His hands
...He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the sun and the moon, in His hands (3X)
He's got the day and the night, in His hands (3X)
He's got the stars in the sky, in His hands (3x)
(Add other verses as desired.)

Additional Activity:

Have a pajama party! Let everyone come dressed in their PJ's and bring their favorite cuddly. Break out the popcorn and the latest movie, dim the lights, and have a pajama party at school!

Optional Resources:

[Handwriting Sheet O is for Octopus](#)

[Bible Handwriting Sheet O is for Olive Branch](#)

[Phases of the Moon Shape Matching Game](#)

[He's Got the Whole World Craft](#)



Helpful Links:

[Goodnight Moon Preschool Pack on Homeschool Creations](#)

[Moon Activities on Totally Tots](#)

[Goodnight Moon Activities on Delightful Learning](#)

[Goodnight Moon Lapbook from Homeschool Share](#)

Notes:
