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SAMPLE



# Gravity

Right now, you are living on the surface of a planet. If you go outside and jump straight up, you'll go a little bit up into the **atmosphere**. You won't keep going, though. You'll come back down very quickly.

We are so used to not floating off into space that we take **gravity** for granted. This means we are so used to it happening that we don't really question it. As it turns out, gravity isn't the only thing we take for granted. Not by a long shot!





# Night Names

Around 500 years ago, sailors from Europe began to explore the Pacific Ocean. On the islands of the Pacific, they met a group of people called the Polynesians. The Hawaiians and the Māori people of New Zealand, for example, are Polynesians.

When the sailors asked Polynesian people what day it was, and when the Polynesians finally understood the question, the Polynesians couldn't stop laughing. They gave the *nights* names, not the days!



“Why do you name the days?” they asked. “The sun doesn’t change. You can’t look up into the sky and tell what day it is. But one look at the moon, and you know what night it is.”

They were right. From day to day, the sun looks the same. From night to night, the moon changes.