***THE MOON- FACTS, MYTHS AND MORE!!!!!***

*The Moon, which is occasionally distinguished as Luna, is an astronomical body that orbits the Earth as the only permanent natural satellite of our planet. It is the fifth largest satellite in the solar system and the largest among planetary satellites, similar to the size of the planet it orbits.*

*It’s distance to earth is 384,400 km, it’s gravitational force is 1.62 m/s2,it’s orbital period is 27 days, it’s radius is 1,737.1 km and it orbits the Earth.*

*The moon is in synchronous rotation with the Earth and thus it always shows the same side to the Earth, the near side. Every crater on the moon is given a different name.*

*Did you know that the dark side of the moon is a myth and that there are actually 4 kinds of lunar months namely – Anomalistic, Nodical, Sidereal and Synodical?*

***HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS AND SOME ANSWERS TO THEM :-***

***What are the moon seas?***

*The dark patches on the moon’s surface are called seas, but in fact they are not seas at all. They were formed about 3 billion years ago when lava from the inside the moon flowed into huge craters and solidified.*

***What are craters?***

*The moon’s surface is covered with impact craters. These form when asteroids or comets crash into the moon. Most of the craters were made about 3-4 years ago.*

***How long is a month based on reference to the moon?***

*It takes the moon 27.3 days to circle the Earth, but 29.53 days from one full moon to the next, because the Earth is moving as well. A lunar month is the 29.53 days cycle. Our calendar months are entirely artificial.*

***Are there other moons?***

*Yes, almost as many as 250 bodies, all in our solar system, are classified as moons. Other stars and their planets are likely to have moons, but none has yet been observed.*

***How was the moon formed?***

*Most scientists believe that the moon was formed when, early in the Earth’s history, a planet smashed into it. The impact was so great that nothing was left of the planet that smashed into the Earth but a few splashes thrown back up into space. These splashes and material from the battered planet were drawn together by gravity to form the moon.*

***--Eva Thomas VI******‘B’***