

Vocabulary: Tides



Vocabulary

- Gravity – the force of attraction between all objects in the universe.
 - Gravity is only important when at least one of the objects is very large, like the Earth, Sun, or Moon.
- High tide – the maximum height reached by a rising tide.
 - “High tide” can also refer to the time at which high tide occurs.
- Low tide – the minimum height of a falling tide.
 - “Low tide” can also refer to the time at which low tide occurs.
- Neap tide – a tide with a relatively small difference between high and low tide.
 - Neap tides occur when the Sun, Moon, and Earth form a right angle.
- Spring tide – a tide with a relatively large difference between high and low tide.
 - Spring tides occur when the Sun, Moon, and Earth are aligned (in a line).
- Tidal bulge – a bulge of water formed by the pull of the Sun and Moon’s gravity.
 - Typically there are two tidal bulges. One is located on the side of Earth that faces the Moon. The other is on the opposite side of Earth, away from the Moon.
 - When a location on Earth’s surface rotates into a tidal bulge, it experiences high tide.
- Tides – The regular rise and fall of ocean surfaces.
 - Tides are caused by the gravitational pull of the Moon and Sun.