The Pilgrim Tides

Earth Science	March, 2012	Mr. Traeger

Name: _____   Period: _____   Date: _____

Background and Purpose

Most of us have heard the story of the Pilgrims' exodus from England to the New World in the year 1620. The Pilgrims anchored the *Mayflower* at the site of Provincetown (Cape Cod), Massachusetts for almost a month before settling at Plymouth Harbor. Imagine that you are the ship's captain of the *Mayflower II* and you need to know the tidal fluctuations at Provincetown in order to keep the ship from running aground while at anchor. You will use the tide chart given to you to estimate/graph the tidal fluctuations for March, 2012 arrival at Provincetown. In doing so, you will become familiar with the differences in tidal ranges during each phase of the moon.

Materials

- Tide chart
- Ruler
- Graph Paper on Back
- Pencil

Procedure

1. Using a sheet of graph paper, divide the paper lengthwise into 4 separate sections.

2. Plot time of day on the *x*-axis and water level in feet on the *y*-axis for the dates corresponding to the third quarter, new moon, first quarter, and full moon. Be careful to scale your graph correctly and to account for negative tides, which are below mean sea level. The origin for the time axis should be 12:00 A.M. for each graph.

3. Once you have plotted your points, connect the points with a smooth curve. Make sure to label you graphs with a title and units on each axis.

4. Answer the questions that follow concerning your 4 graphs.

Pre Graphing Questions (Refer to pages 531-534 in your text to do these)

1. Draw the orientation of the Earth, Sun, and Moon for **Spring** tides. Also make sure to draw the tidal bulge of the ocean. See page 542.

2. Draw the orientation of the Earth, Sun, and Moon for **Neap** tides. Also make sure to draw the tidal bulge of the ocean. See page 542.

3. How many high tides and how many low tides are there (usually) per day? Why is this? Drawing a diagram of how the Earth rotates underneath the tidal bulge would be helpful.

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Chart from http://www.boatma.com/tides/March/Provincetown-Cape-Cod-Bay.html

back to the Tides Index

Cape Cod Tides

Provincetown Cape Cod Bay

Provincetown Cape Cod Bay, Massachusetts

March Tide Chart

2012

| DAY	DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀		🌙
		AM	hgt	PM	hgt	AM	hgt	PM	hgt	rise	set	moon
Thursday	01	5:01	8.5	5:40	7.5	11:29	1.4	11:42	1.8	6:15	5:31	
Friday	02	5:57	8.4	6:38	7.5	12:26 PM	1.4			6:13	5:32	
Saturday	03	6:54	8.6	7:35	7.7	12:39	1.8	1:22	1.1	6:12	5:33	
Sunday	04	7:50	8.9	8:28	8.2	1:36	1.5	2:16	0.7	6:10	5:34	
Monday	05	8:43	9.3	9:18	8.7	2:30	1.0	3:06	0.2	6:08	5:36	
Tuesday	06	9:33	9.8	10:04	9.3	3:21	0.4	3:53	-0.3	6:07	5:37	
Wednesday	07	10:21	10.3	10:48	10.0	4:10	-0.2	4:39	-0.8	6:05	5:38	
Thursday	08	11:08	10.6	11:32	10.5	4:58	-0.8	5:24	-1.1	6:03	5:39	🟡
Friday	09	11:56	10.7			5:46	-1.3	6:09	-1.3	6:02	5:40	
Saturday	10	12:17	10.9	12:44	10.7	6:34	-1.6	6:55	-1.3	6:00	5:42	
Sunday	11	1:04	11.1	2:34	10.4	8:24	-1.6	8:43	-1.0	6:58	6:43	
Monday	12	2:53	11.0	3:26	10.0	9:16	-1.4	9:34	-0.6	6:57	6:44	
Tuesday	13	3:45	10.8	4:22	9.5	10:11	-1.0	10:29	-0.1	6:55	6:45	
Wednesday	14	4:42	10.4	5:23	9.0	11:09	-0.5	11:27	0.4	6:53	6:46	
Thursday	15	5:43	9.9	6:28	8.6	12:12 PM	-0.1			6:51	6:47	
Friday	16	6:49	9.6	7:36	8.5	12:30	0.7	1:18	0.2	6:50	6:48	
Saturday	17	7:58	9.4	8:43	8.6	1:36	0.9	2:24	0.3	6:48	6:50	
Sunday	18	9:04	9.4	9:43	8.8	2:42	0.8	3:26	0.3	6:46	6:51	
Monday	19	10:03	9.5	10:35	9.1	3:43	0.6	4:19	0.2	6:45	6:52	
Tuesday	20	10:54	9.6	11:20	9.3	4:36	0.3	5:06	0.1	6:43	6:53	
Wednesday	21	11:39	9.6	11:59	9.5	5:24	0.1	5:47	0.1	6:41	6:54	
Thursday	22	12:20 PM	9.6			6:06	-0.1	6:26	0.1	6:39	6:55	🔵
Friday	23	12:37	9.6	12:59	9.5	6:46	-0.1	7:03	0.2	6:38	6:56	
Saturday	24	1:12	9.7	1:37	9.3	7:26	-0.1	7:40	0.4	6:36	6:58	
Sunday	25	1:48	9.6	2:15	9.1	8:04	0.0	8:17	0.6	6:34	6:59	
Monday	26	2:25	9.5	2:54	8.8	8:44	0.2	8:56	0.9	6:32	7:00	
Tuesday	27	3:04	9.3	3:36	8.4	9:26	0.5	9:38	1.2	6:31	7:01	
Wednesday	28	3:46	9.1	4:21	8.1	10:10	0.8	10:23	1.5	6:29	7:02	
Thursday	29	4:32	8.8	5:10	7.9	10:58	1.0	11:12	1.7	6:27	7:03	
Friday	30	5:22	8.7	6:02	7.8	11:50	1.2			6:26	7:04	
Saturday	31	6:17	8.6	6:58	7.9	12:06	1.8	12:45	1.2	6:24	7:05	

Making Tide Graphs

Use the following graph sheet to plot your tides. Make sure to make 4 separate graphs, one for each phase of the moon. Plot time of day (hours) on *x* axis and height variation (feet) on *y* axis.
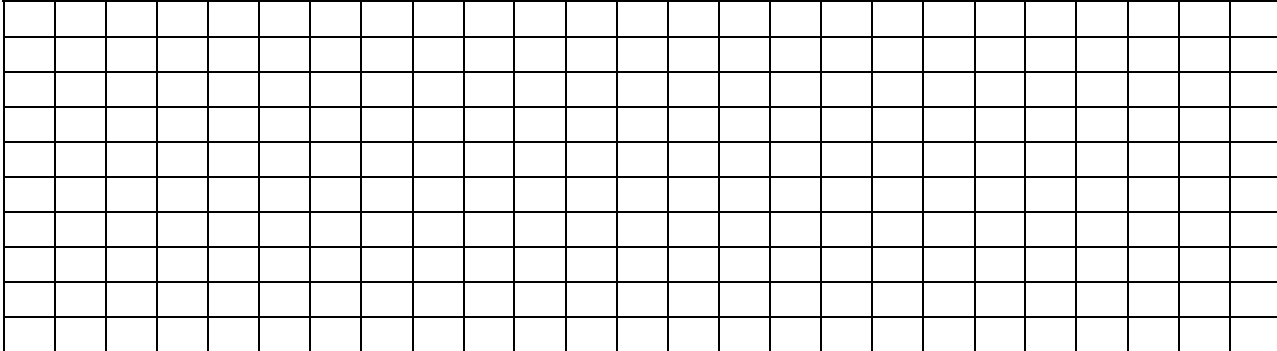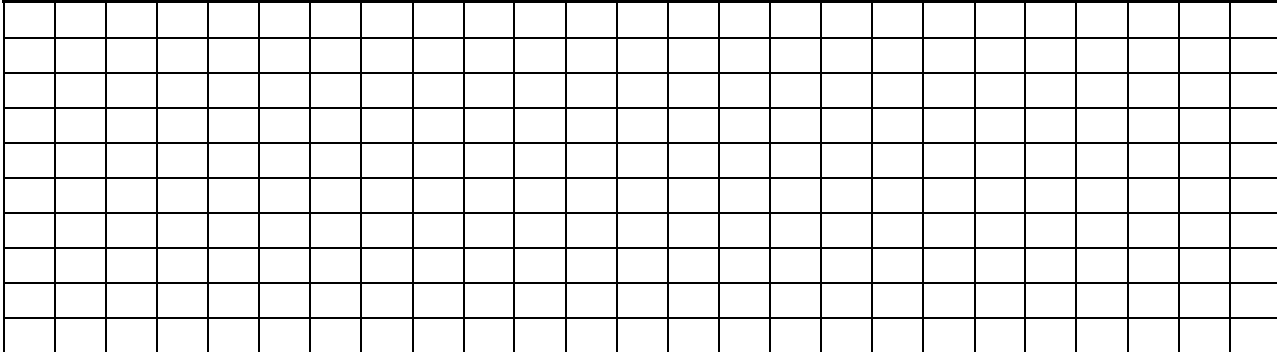
First Quarter (Plot March 1, 2012)
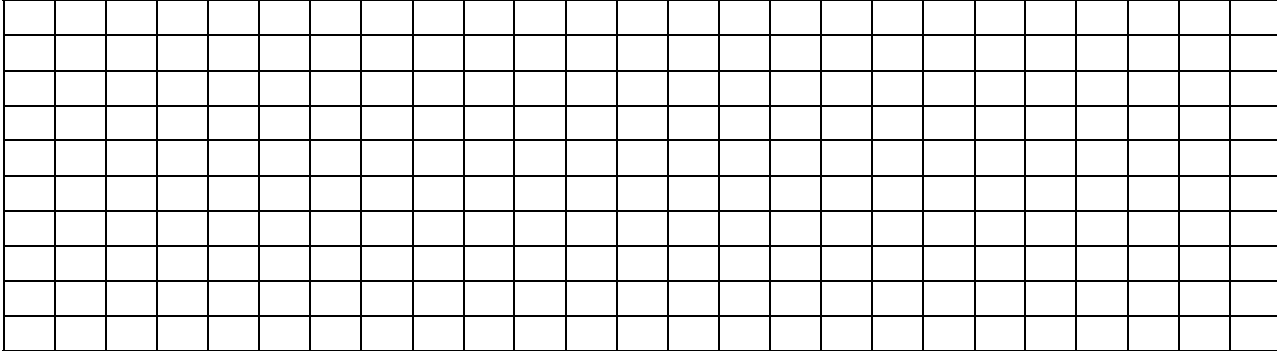
Full Moon (Plot March 8, 2012)
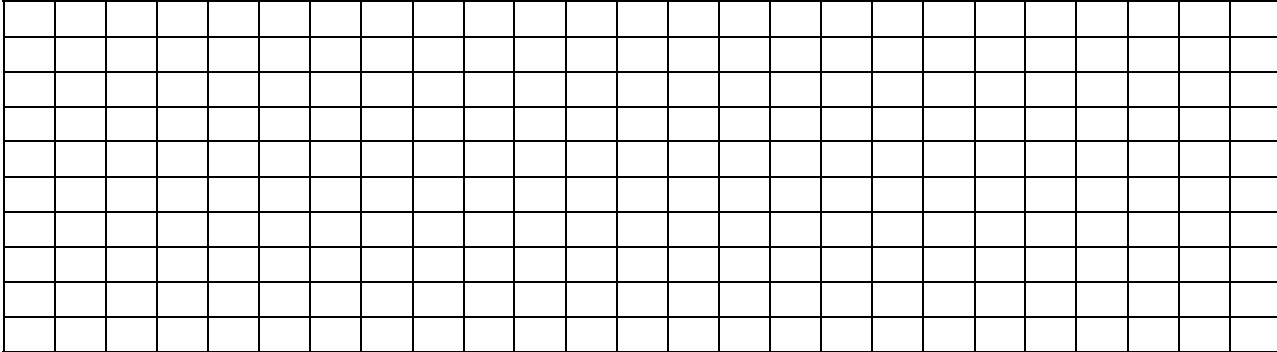
Third Quarter (Plot March 15, 2012)

New Moon (Plot March 22, 2012)

Post Graphing Questions (Refer to pages 531-534 in your text to do these)

1. Subtract the height value for the lowest low tide from the height value for the highest high tide for each date below. This is called tidal range. Show your mathematical work.

3/1/12 (First Quarter)	3/8/12 (Full Moon)	3/15/12 (Third Quarter)	3/22/12 (New Moon)
Highest high tide: Lowest low tide: Difference (Range):	Highest high tide: Lowest low tide: Difference (Range):	Highest high tide: Lowest low tide: Difference (Range):	Highest high tide: Lowest low tide: Difference (Range):

2. Which two dates above would be considered as Spring Tides? Which two dates above would be considered as Neap Tides? Use the tidal range to figure this out.

| Dates of Spring Tides	Dates of Neap Tides

3. Look at the times of the AM high tides for the whole tide chart. By how many minutes does the time advance for each successive day? Why is this?

4. Which has the greatest influence on tides, the sun or the moon? Why?

5. Which side of the Earth is more attracted to the moon? The side facing the moon or the side away from the moon?

6. Perigee is on March 10th and the moon is a distance of 362,399 km. Apogee is on March 26th and the moon is a distance of 405,799 km. How does this explain the difference of tidal range between the March 8th full moon and the March 22nd new moon? Draw an orbital diagram to explain this.

7. Look at the following two tide graphs from different locations. Then look at the map on page 708-709 in your book. Explain why the tidal range (size of the tides) is different for each geographic location.

Boston, MA (Atlantic Ocean)   Cedar Key, FL (Gulf of Mexico)
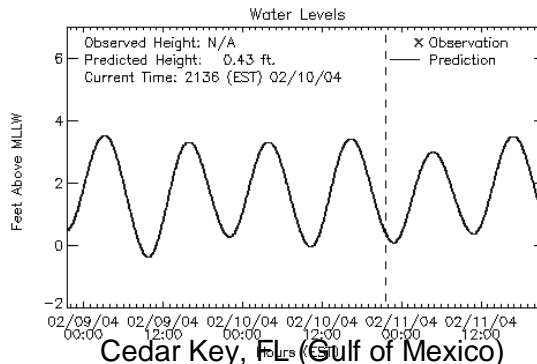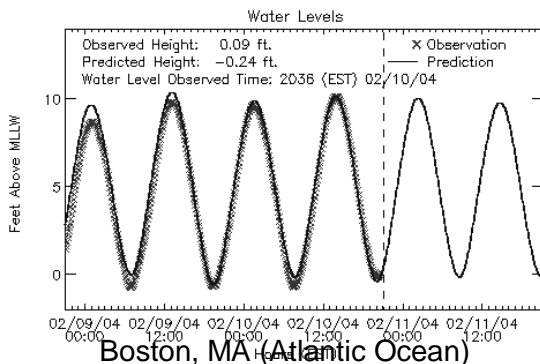
8. Why is it that oceans have larger tides and large lakes have smaller tides? Explain.

9. Predict what might happen on the Earth if we did not have the Moon to influence our tides. Would we still have ocean tides? If so, what other celestial body would cause them?