

The Pilgrim Tides

Geology

February/March Lunar Cycle, 2015

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 February/March, 2015 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 your 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 541-543 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 is required.

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Provincetown Cape Cod Bay



 Provincetown Cape Cod Bay, Massachusetts

February/March,
2015
Tide Chart

February, 2015

DAY	DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀		☾
		AM	hgt	PM	hgt	AM	hgt	PM	hgt	rise	set	moon
Wednesday	18	10:30	11.2	11:04	10.4	4:19	-0.9	4:53	-1.7	6:32	5:16	
Thursday	19	11:23	11.4	11:54	10.8	5:12	-1.4	5:43	-2.0	6:31	5:18	☀
Friday	20	12:15 PM	11.5			6:04	-1.7	6:32	-2.1	6:30	5:19	
Saturday	21	12:44	11.0	1:06	11.3	6:55	-1.8	7:22	-1.9	6:28	5:20	
Sunday	22	1:34	11.0	1:59	10.8	7:48	-1.7	8:12	-1.4	6:27	5:21	
Monday	23	2:25	10.8	2:54	10.2	8:41	-1.3	9:04	-0.8	6:25	5:23	
Tuesday	24	3:19	10.4	3:51	9.5	9:38	-0.7	9:58	-0.2	6:23	5:24	
Wednesday	25	4:15	10.0	4:51	8.9	10:37	-0.2	10:56	0.4	6:22	5:25	
Thursday	26	5:16	9.5	5:56	8.4	11:39	0.3	11:57	0.9	6:20	5:26	
Friday	27	6:18	9.2	7:02	8.2	12:45 PM	0.6			6:19	5:28	
Saturday	28	7:22	9.1	8:05	8.2	12:59	1.1	1:49	0.7	6:17	5:29	

March, 2015

DAY	DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀		☾
		AM	hgt	PM	hgt	AM	hgt	PM	hgt	rise	set	moon
Sunday	01	8:22	9.1	9:01	8.3	2:00	1.2	2:46	0.6	6:16	5:30	
Monday	02	9:14	9.2	9:48	8.5	2:55	1.0	3:35	0.5	6:14	5:31	
Tuesday	03	10:01	9.3	10:29	8.7	3:43	0.8	4:17	0.3	6:13	5:32	
Wednesday	04	10:42	9.4	11:07	8.9	4:26	0.6	4:55	0.2	6:11	5:34	
Thursday	05	11:20	9.5	11:42	9.1	5:06	0.4	5:31	0.1	6:09	5:35	
Friday	06	11:57	9.5			5:44	0.2	6:06	0.1	6:08	5:36	☀
Saturday	07	12:17	9.2	12:33	9.4	6:23	0.1	6:42	0.1	6:06	5:37	
Sunday	08	12:51	9.3	2:10	9.3	8:01	0.1	8:19	0.3	7:05	6:38	
Monday	09	2:27	9.3	2:48	9.1	8:40	0.2	8:57	0.4	7:03	6:40	
Tuesday	10	3:04	9.3	3:29	8.8	9:22	0.3	9:37	0.7	7:01	6:41	
Wednesday	11	3:45	9.2	4:13	8.5	10:06	0.5	10:22	0.9	7:00	6:42	
Thursday	12	4:29	9.1	5:02	8.3	10:54	0.6	11:11	1.1	6:58	6:43	
Friday	13	5:19	9.1	5:56	8.2	11:48	0.7			6:56	6:44	
Saturday	14	6:15	9.2	6:55	8.2	12:05	1.1	12:46	0.6	6:54	6:45	
Sunday	15	7:15	9.3	7:56	8.5	1:05	1.0	1:46	0.3	6:53	6:46	
Monday	16	8:17	9.7	8:57	9.0	2:06	0.7	2:46	-0.1	6:51	6:48	
Tuesday	17	9:17	10.2	9:54	9.6	3:06	0.2	3:43	-0.6	6:49	6:49	
Wednesday	18	10:16	10.6	10:48	10.2	4:04	-0.5	4:38	-1.1	6:48	6:50	
Thursday	19	11:11	11.0	11:40	10.8	4:59	-1.1	5:30	-1.6	6:46	6:51	
Friday	20	12:05 PM	11.3			5:53	-1.6	6:20	-1.8	6:44	6:52	☀
Saturday	21	12:31	11.2	12:57	11.3	6:45	-2.0	7:09	-1.8	6:42	6:53	

Tide charts acquired from <http://www.boatma.com/tides/Cape-Cod.html>

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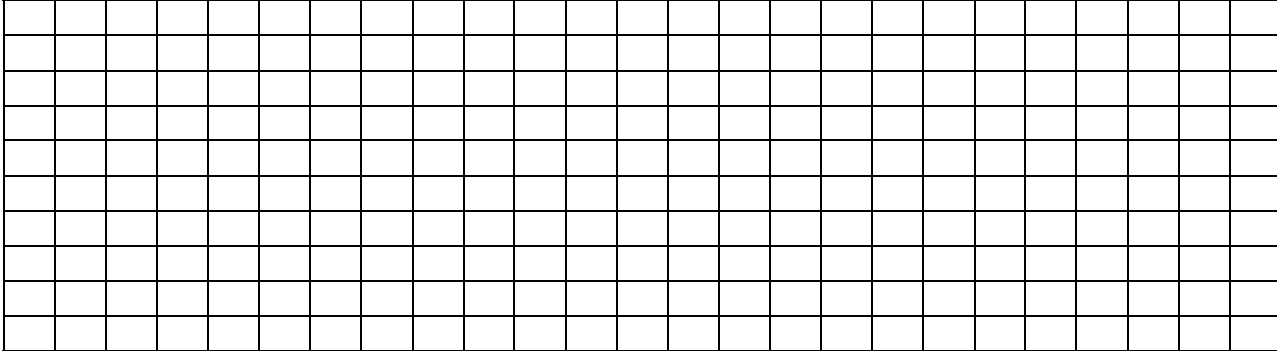
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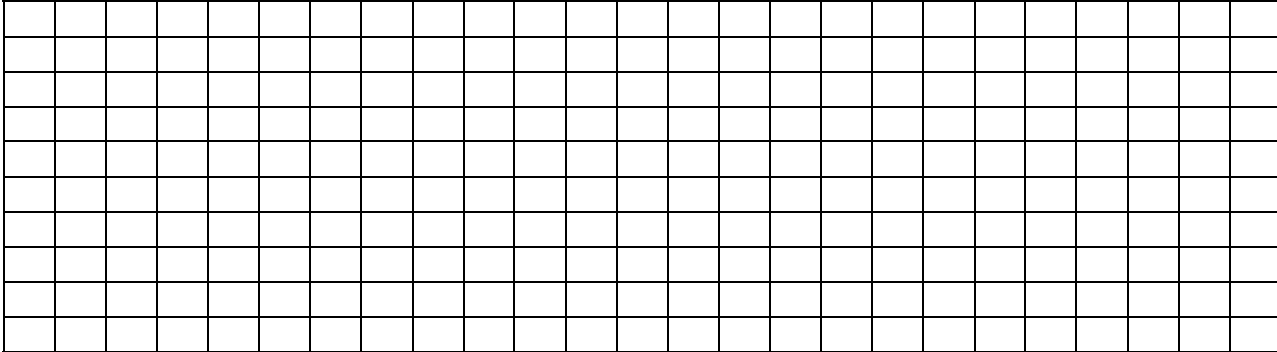
Making Tide Graphs

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.

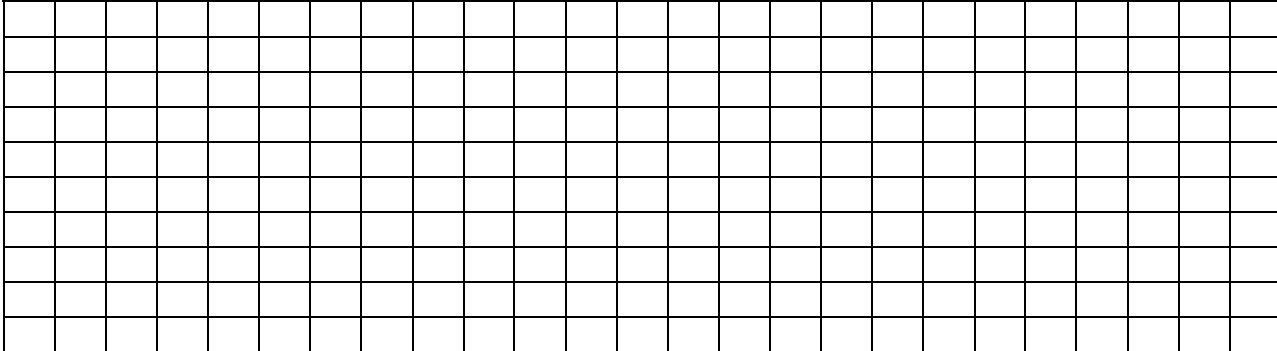
New Moon (Plot February 19, 2015)



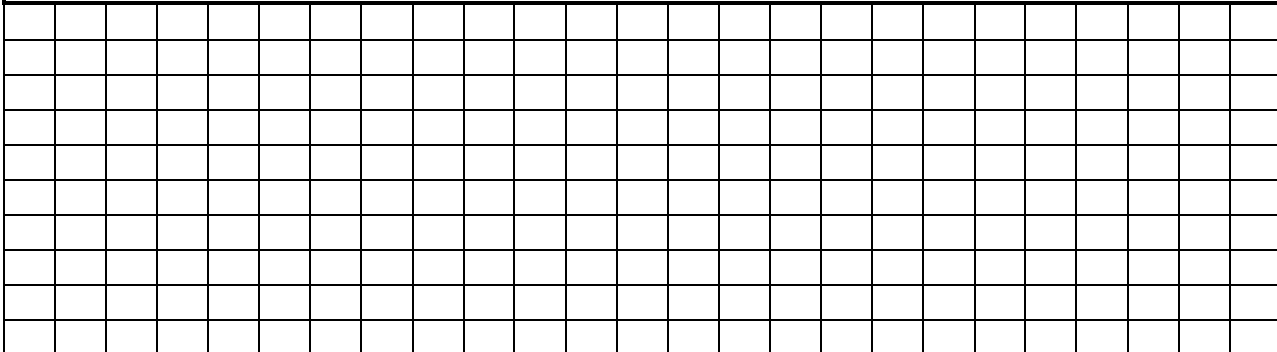
First Quarter (Plot February 26, 2015)



Full Moon (Plot March 5, 2015)



Third Quarter (Plot March 12, 2015)



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Post Graphing Questions (Refer to pages 541-543 in your text to do these)

- 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.

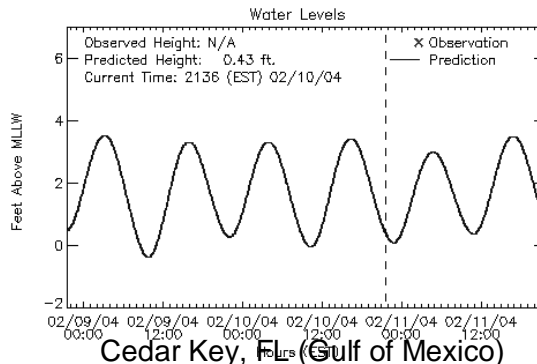
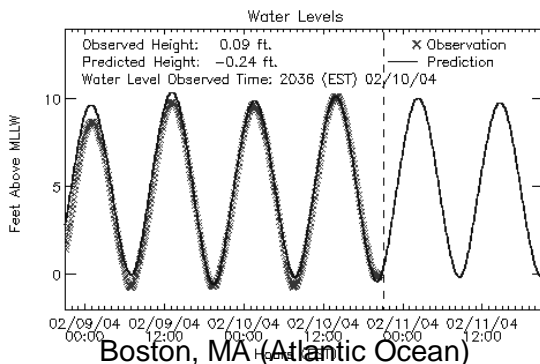
2/19/15 (New Moon)	2/26/15 (First Quarter)	3/5/15 (Full Moon)	3/12/15 (Third Quarter)
Highest high tide:	Highest high tide:	Highest high tide:	Highest high tide:
Lowest low tide:	Lowest low tide:	Lowest low tide:	Lowest low tide:
Difference (Range):	Difference (Range):	Difference (Range):	Difference (Range):

- 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

- 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?
- Which has the greatest influence on tides, the Sun or the Moon? Why?
- Which side of the Earth is more attracted to the moon? The side facing the moon or the side away from the moon? Why?
- Perigee is on February 19th and the moon is a distance of 356,991 km. Apogee is on March 5th and the moon is a distance of 406,385 km. How does this explain the difference of tidal range between the February 19th New Moon and the March 5th Full Moon? Draw an orbital diagram to explain this.

- 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.



- Why is it that oceans have larger tides and large lakes have smaller tides? Explain.
- 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?