Hunter's Moon lights landmarks worldwide

LEVEL A2/B1


Photo: Aleksey Kuzmichev / Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. Do you ever look at the Moon? When and where?
2. What colours have you seen in the night sky?
3. Which famous place would you like to see under moonlight?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

tradition
a custom or way of doing things that people follow over time

nickname
a short or special name that people use for something

harvest
the time when farmers gather crops from the fields

hunter
a person who looks for and kills wild animals for food

glow
a soft, steady light

horizon
the line where the land or sea seems to meet the sky

passenger
a person who travels in a car, bus, plane, or train

skyline
the outline of a city's tall buildings against the sky

III. READING

October's full Moon lit up night skies around the world. It has a nickname from old traditions: the Hunter's Moon. In the Northern Hemisphere, people once went hunting after the autumn harvest, and the Moon often sat in the sky for a long time.

Its long glow helped hunters see at night, similar to the Harvest Moon that comes before it. Photos showed the Moon over many famous places. Passengers on a plane saw it above San Francisco Bay in the US. It rose behind the skyline of midtown Manhattan and set over Istanbul's Galata Tower.

People also watched it in Derbyshire in the UK, Baghdad in Iraq, and by a basilica in Molfetta, Italy. When the Moon is low near the horizon, it can look orange or reddish because more air scatters blue light.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "Stunning photos capture October's Hunter's Moon...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the October full Moon's nickname?
2. Why did people value this Moon in the past?
3. Name two places where people saw the Moon, according to the photos.
4. What colours can the Moon look when it is low near the horizon?
5. Who enjoyed a view of the Moon above San Francisco Bay?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Which photo location from the text would you like to visit? Why?
2. Have you taken a night-sky photo? How did it go?
3. Do you prefer sunrise, sunset, or moonrise? Why?
4. What local place would look best under a bright full Moon?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Past simple

Use the past simple for finished actions in the past. Form: regular -ed (showed) or irregular forms (saw, came).

*"Photos **showed** the Moon over many famous places."*
*"Passengers on a plane **saw** it above San Francisco Bay in the US."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with the past simple form.

1. In October, people (watch) ___ the Hunter's Moon. _____
2. People once (go) ___ hunting after the harvest. _____
3. The Moon (rise) ___ behind the skyline of midtown Manhattan. _____
4. The Moon's glow (help) ___ hunters see at night. _____
5. Old traditions (give) ___ this Moon its nickname. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


Photo: Aleksey Kuzmichev / Unsplash

I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8 minutes warm-up, 8–10 minutes vocabulary, 10–12 minutes reading, 8 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes discussion. Combine grammar time with reading if needed.
- Pre-teach place names with a quick map check, and drill pronunciation of Hunter's Moon, Manhattan, Istanbul, and Molfetta.
- Reading procedure: skim for the nickname; scan for three locations; then pair-check before a brief whole-class check.
- Differentiation: stronger students add one extra fact about a location from the text; others underline the words that support each answer.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Give students 30 seconds to choose, then in pairs explain why; push for one reason and one detail.
2. Model a simple answer first (phone/camera, light). Ask one follow-up: what would you change next time?
3. Do a quick class vote for each option, then mix groups so different choices sit together and compare reasons.
4. Ask students to name a real spot in their town. If stuck, offer examples (a bridge, a tower, a square).

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: In pairs, write a 60–80 word photo caption and short post to share one Moon photo from the text.

Presentation: In groups of three, give a 1-minute mini-talk describing how the Moon looked in two places from the text.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Past simple

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the October full Moon's nickname?
   The Hunter's Moon.
2. Why did people value this Moon in the past?
   It sat in the sky for a long time and helped hunters see at night.
3. Name two places where people saw the Moon, according to the photos.
   San Francisco Bay and midtown Manhattan.
4. What colours can the Moon look when it is low near the horizon?
   Orange or reddish.
5. Who enjoyed a view of the Moon above San Francisco Bay?
   Passengers on a plane.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use the past simple for finished actions in the past. Form: regular -ed (showed) or irregular forms (saw, came).

*"Photos **showed** the Moon over many famous places."*

*"Passengers on a plane **saw** it above San Francisco Bay in the US."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with the past simple form.

1. In October, people ___ the Hunter's Moon. **watched**
2. People once ___ hunting after the harvest. **went**
3. The Moon ___ behind the skyline of midtown Manhattan. **rose**
4. The Moon's glow ___ hunters see at night. **helped**
5. Old traditions ___ this Moon its nickname. **gave**