

Tales from Africa

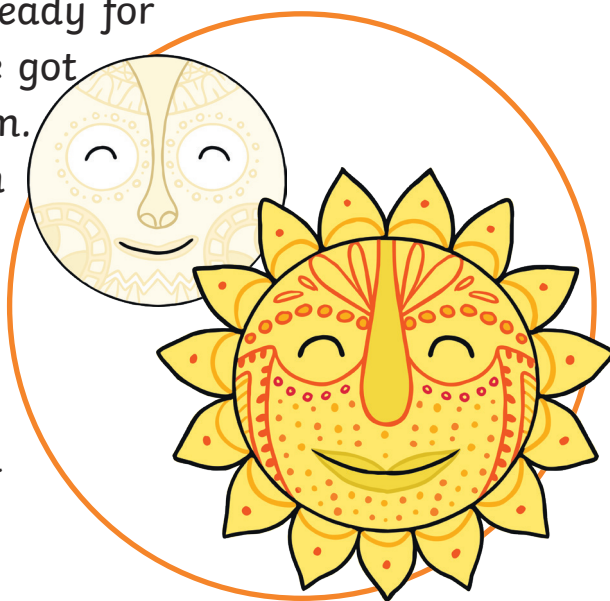
Why the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky

Many, many years ago when the Earth was still new and fresh, the Sun and the Moon lived together on Earth. They shared a big, beautiful home that had an upstairs and downstairs. On the top floor, there was a large balcony overlooking the jungle. In the evenings, they liked to sit on the balcony and listen to the monkeys getting ready for bed.

Their best friend was Water, but he never came to visit their beautiful house. "Come to visit us!" pleaded Sun. "Please come to visit us, Water!" begged Moon, "We can all sit together on the balcony and listen to the monkeys getting ready to go to bed." But Water always had the same answer, "No, Sun and Moon. I can't come to visit. I have so many friends that live in me, all the fish and the sea creatures cannot survive without me and I'm afraid that we won't all fit into your house."

Every day, Sun and Moon asked the same question and every day Water gave them the same answer.

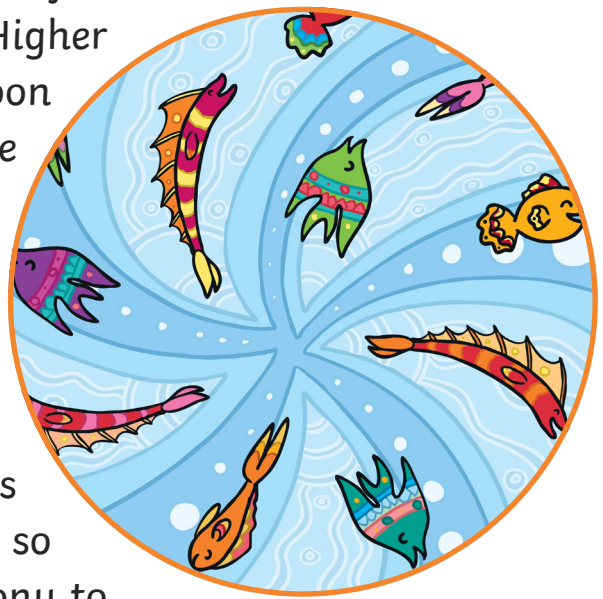
One night, while Sun and Moon were sitting on their balcony listening to the monkeys getting ready for bed, Moon had a bright idea. "I've got it! I have the solution to our problem. If we make our house bigger, then Water and all his friends who live in him will be able to come to visit!" Sun thought that this was a fine idea and the next morning they got out of bed early and started making the house even bigger.



After a whole month of working hard to make their house bigger, Sun and Moon's new, very big and very beautiful house, was finished. Sun called Water straight away, "Water, our house is so big now that we are sure that you and all the creatures that live in you will fit into the house. Please come to visit!"

So, Water finally agreed to visit Sun and Moon. He arrived at their big house and carefully knocked on the front door. "Come in!" shouted Moon, and Water opened the door and went inside.

In a minute, Water had covered the floor and was up to Sun and Moon's face. Higher and higher Water went and soon Sun and Moon needed to go up the stairs to the top storey of the house so that they did not drown, but Water just kept on coming, filling up the house with himself and all the fish and sea creatures who lived in him. Before long, Water was up to Sun and Moon's faces again so they had to run out onto the balcony to save themselves. But still, Water just kept on filling up the house.



Soon, there was nowhere for Sun and Moon to go so they jumped up into the sky. From their new space in the sky, they could still hear the monkeys and see the jungle. They could also talk to their friend, Water, whenever they wanted to, without drowning, so they thought they would just stay there forever, and they did!