What is Gravity?

Cross-Curricular Focus: Physical Science

You may have seen astronauts floating around in space or in a space shuttle. Have you ever wondered why they float and your feet stay firmly on the ground? When you drop something, why does it fall? The answer to both of these questions is something called **gravity**. It **affects** everything we do.

Many years ago, a man named Sir Isaac Newton wondered about gravity, too. He watched and tested the way things move and fall on Earth, and wrote his ideas down. Scientists today use a lot of his ideas, which are now considered laws of science.

Gravity is a force that makes all objects be attracted to each other. The bigger the object is, the more it attracts things. Since nothing on Earth is bigger than planet Earth itself, all the things (and people) on Earth are attracted by Earth. Everything is pulled toward the center of the planet, which is why things fall to the ground. It is also why people and things stay on the ground instead of floating around. Earth is even large enough to attract our moon. That's why we can always see it in our sky!

Name:_____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) Why do your feet stay on the ground instead of floating? _____

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2) Who was the scientist who did experiments with gravity and motion many years ago?_____

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3) Why are things and people attracted to Earth? _____

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4) What can we see in the sky because of gravity? _____

5) What would it be like if there were no gravity on Earth? _____

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