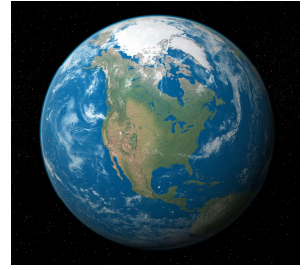


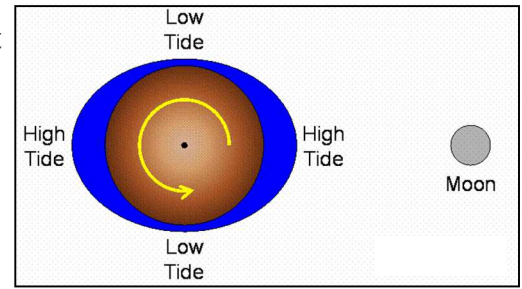
Name _____

Tides



From the darkness of space, the earth appears to be mostly blue. This is because more than 70 percent of its surface is covered by the oceans. About every 12 hours, the water levels of the oceans rise, and then fall back again. These rises and falls of the oceans are called the tides.

Tides are caused by the gravitational pull of the moon. The gravity of the moon attracts the ocean water which is closest to it. So, the part of the ocean facing the moon bulges toward her. At the same time, on the opposite side of the earth, the waters of the ocean bulge in the opposite direction. When the water level is rising the tide is said to be "flowing". The outgoing tide is said to be "ebbing".



The highest tides in the world are found in the Bay of Fundy (Canada). There, the water level rises about 50 feet during high tide.



Answer the Questions

1. How many tides occur each day?

2. What is the percentage of the earth that is covered by oceans?

3. Explain what causes the tides.

4. Where are the highest tides found on the earth?
