

Tides

If you have ever been on the coast or shoreline of an ocean, you may have had the opportunity to see the high and low tides happening. Each day there are usually two high tides and two low tides (although some locations don't experience two tides). If you walked on the shore of the ocean during the low tide, you would have lots and lots of shore space but if you walked on shore during high tide, there would be very little shore space as the water line is much higher.

Think of tides as rising and falling levels of

water from the ocean. Tides are

mostly caused by the gravitational pull of the moon. When the moon is new or

when the moon is full, the tides are

higher than usual. The sun also affects tides

but because the sun is farther

away from earth, the impact isn't strong

like the pull from the moon which is closer.

The oceans on earth get pulled by the gravitational force toward the moon

which creates the bulge in the oceans. The earth is always spinning and this means there will

be another high tide on the other side of earth. The highest and lowest tides are called the

Spring tides and will occur when the sun, moon and earth are all lined up. Although these

higher and lower tides are called Spring tides, they have nothing to do with the season that is

called spring.

As the moon orbits the earth, the gravitational pull is greater on the side of earth that the moon is facing and the pull creates the 'bulge' of water which is the high tide.

