

Name _____

How Are Moons Formed?

Short Answer

1. Explain how the giant impact hypothesis accounts for the formation of Earth's moon.
2. What role does a planet's gravitational pull play in the capture mechanism of moon formation?
3. Provide an example of a moon that may have formed through the capture mechanism and describe its characteristics.
4. Describe the process of accretion as it pertains to moon formation from protoplanetary disks.
5. What factors contribute to the diversity of moons in our solar system, and how can their formation histories differ?

