

Name _____

Discovering and Naming Moons: How Astronomers Uncover Celestial Companions

Short Answer Key

1. Technology, including spacecraft with cameras and instruments, has significantly improved moon discovery by providing images and data that confirm the presence of moons.
2. The verification process is crucial to ensure that the moon's existence is confirmed through additional data and observations, preventing false claims or errors.
3. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) oversees moon naming to maintain consistency and prevent duplication, ensuring that names have cultural or mythological significance.
4. Example: Triton, Neptune's largest moon, is named after the son of Poseidon (the Greek god of the sea) and Amphitrite. Triton's name reflects its association with Neptune, the Roman god of the sea.
5. The gravitational interaction between a moon and its parent body causes the star to wobble slightly due to the moon's gravitational pull.

