Name _____

Exploring the Variety of Moons in Our Solar System

Short Answer Key

1. Regular moons are the most common type of moon with stable, nearly circular orbits around their parent planets. An example is Earth's Moon.
2. Irregular moons have eccentric orbits that often differ from the typical circular paths of regular moons. These orbits can result from being captured by a planet's gravity or other mechanisms.
3. Captured moons are celestial objects that were not originally formed in orbit around a planet but were captured by a planet's gravitational pull. An example is Mars' moons, Phobos and Deimos.
4. Trojan moons share an orbit with a larger moon, gravitating at a stable point ahead of or behind the larger moon. They can also be found in other celestial systems, such as asteroids sharing orbits with planets.
5. Enceladus, a moon of Saturn, is known for erupting geysers of water vapor and ice particles from its south pole. This suggests the presence of a subsurface ocean, making it a target for future exploration.