

## First Blue Moon total eclipse in 150 years coming this month

***Tuesday 02 January 2018***

The New Year started with a supermoon, but stargazers will be over the moon later this month with a spectacle not seen since 1866.

Stargazers are in for an exciting treat this month with the first total eclipse of a Blue Moon in 150 years. The spectacle, described by NASA as a "super blue blood moon", will occur on 31 January.

There has already been a Wolf Moon this month, which occurred on New Year's Day, when the moon appeared about 14% bigger and 30% brighter in the sky as it reached its closest point to Earth during orbit. Described by NASA as "the most super of the three super moons this winter", it was the first of the two full moons in January – and also "the biggest and brightest of 2018".

The next sky-watching promises to be even more spectacular. According to the US space agency, the second supermoon will be viewable "from western North America across the pacific to Eastern Asia". Blue Moons happen every two-and-a-half years on average, but a total eclipse of a Blue Moon last happened in 1866. A Blue Moon is the name given to the second full moon in a calendar month.



Adapted sources:

<https://news.sky.com/story/first-blue-moon-total-eclipse-in-150-years-coming-this-month-11193130>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/42554508>

## Reading Questions

1. What spectacle has not been seen since 1866?

---

2. What did the New Year start with?

---

3. Who is in for an exciting treat this month?

---

4. What has there already been this month?

---

5. How much bigger did the moon seem on New Year's Day as a percentage?

---

6. How much brighter in the sky did the moon seem on New Year's Day?

---

7. What did NASA describe the first Blue Moon total eclipse in 150 years as?

---

8. According to the US space agency, where will the second supermoon be viewable from?

---

9. How often on average do Blue Moons happen?

---

10. What is the name given to a second full moon in a calendar month?

---

# Blue Moon – E3 Functional English Tasks

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Writing Activity

***Win a chance to stargaze, with a NASA endorsed telescope.***

For your chance to win complete the competition entry form.

You need to explain:

- why you want to see the blue moon
- what the blue moon is
- why the total eclipse of the blue moon is special
- why you should win the telescope.

## Plan



## Win a telescope!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_



## Entry Level 3 Functional Skills English mapping

Coverage and range statements provide an indication of the type of content candidates are expected to apply in functional contexts. Relevant content can also be drawn from equivalent (school) National Curriculum levels and the Adult Literacy standards.

✓ indicates the main coverage and range skills that are (or can be) covered in this resource. However, these will vary with the student group and how the resource is used by the teacher. **Reference:** Ofqual (2009), *Functional Skills criteria for English: Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3, level 1 and level 2*. <http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/>

**Entry Level 3 Speaking, Listening and Communication skill**      **Respond appropriately to others and make some extended contributions in familiar formal and informal discussions and exchanges**

**standard:**

- a) Follow the main points of discussions
- b) Use techniques to clarify and confirm understanding
- c) Give own point of view and respond appropriately to others' point of view
- d) Use appropriate language in formal discussions/exchanges
- e) Make relevant contributions, allowing for and responding to others' input

**Entry Level 3 Writing skill**      **Write texts with some adaptation to the intended audience**

**standard:**

- a) Plan, draft and organise writing ✓
- b) Sequence writing logically and clearly ✓
- c) Use basic grammar including appropriate verb-tense and subject-verb agreement ✓
- d) Check work for accuracy, including spelling ✓

**Entry Level 3 Reading skill**      **Read and understand the purpose and content of straightforward texts that explain, inform and recount information**

**standard:**

- a) Understand the main points of texts ✓
- b) Obtain specific information through detailed reading ✓
- c) Use organisational features to locate information ✓
- d) Read and understand texts in different formats using strategies and techniques appropriate to task ✓

\* This resource also covers many adult literacy curriculum <http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/content/etf1286> elements.

1. What spectacle has not been seen since 1866?  
**Super Blue Blood Moon**
2. What did the new year start with?  
**A supermoon**
3. Who is in for an exciting treat this month?  
**Stargazers**
4. What has there already been this month?  
**Wolf Moon**
5. How much bigger did the moon seem on New Year's Day as a percentage?  
**14%**
6. How much brighter in the sky did the moon seem on New Year's Day?  
**30%**
7. What did NASA describe the first Blue Moon total eclipse in 150 years as?  
**"The most super of the three super moons this winter "or "the biggest and brightest of 2018".**
8. According to the US space energy where will the second supermoon be viewable from?  
**Western North America across the pacific to Eastern Asia**
9. How often on average do Blue Moons happen?  
**Every two-and-a-half years on average**
10. What is the name given to a second full moon in a calendar month?  
**Blue Moon**