

# Identifying the Moon's Phases



Have you ever wondered why the moon changes every night? Since the moon orbits the Earth, the moon's position changes between the Earth and the sun. These movements change how much of the sun's light reflects off of the moon, which affects how much of the moon we can see each night.

**Directions:** Read each caption and follow the instructions of how to illustrate that moon phase.

## Fun Facts

- There are eight moon phases.
- **Waxing** means growing.
- **Waning** means decreasing in size.
- It takes the moon about a month to go through all of the phases.



### 2. Waxing Crescent

The moon is becoming visible at night, but we can only see a small piece of it. Draw a tiny crescent shape on the right, and shade the rest.



### 1. New Moon

The moon is between the Earth and sun. We can't see it at night. Shade the entire moon.



### 8. Waning Crescent

The moon appears as a small crescent shape again. Draw a tiny crescent shape on the left, then shade the rest.



### 3. First Quarter

The moon is 1/4 of the way around the Earth, and half of the moon is visible. Shade the left half.



### 7. Last Quarter

We see half of the moon again. Shade in the right half.



### 4. Waxing Gibbous

The moon appears almost full. Draw a crescent on the left and shade it in.



### 5. Full Moon

The Earth is between the moon and sun, and it is not blocking any light. The moon looks like it is glowing. Leave the moon blank.



### 6. Waning Gibbous

The moon begins shrinking and we can see all but a small sliver. Draw a crescent on the right and shade it in.