

# SKY STORIES: MAYAN MOON RABBIT



Long ago, before humans had access to advanced science technology, they told stories to explain natural phenomena such as thunder and lightning, or the phases of the moon. Ancient Mayans had many different beliefs about where the moon came from.

## THE MAYAN MOON

According to legend, the world was created when two hero twins rescued their father from the underworld. After they defeated the gods of the underworld, the twins rose up into the sky to become the sun and the moon. Their father became the god of maize (corn) and he rose to create the first sunrise.

Mayans thought of the moon as a female symbol. The crescent moon symbolized a young girl, and the waning moon symbolized a grandmother. When the moon was full, they saw a rabbit in the moon. This connects to other stories of how when the moon was first created, the gods threw a rabbit at its face to dim the light.

The Mayans also believed that the goddess of birth and fertility, Ix Chel (EET-chel), was also a goddess of the moon.





F	G	B	F	B	F	B	T	R	A
I	H	I	U	M	A	I	Z	E	D
G	B	S	L	L	V	T	N	T	Y
U	V	K	L	E	H	S	A	R	O
N	O	O	M	G	N	I	N	A	W
O	A	W	O	E	R	A	K	U	A
B	C	T	O	N	S	B	D	Q	C
A	E	Y	N	D	V	Q	S	T	D
L	A	G	I	B	B	O	U	S	F
Z	Q	K	P	S	N	A	Y	A	M
C	R	E	S	C	E	N	T	L	E

**TIP:**



**LAST QUARTER**

**MAIZE**

**LEGEND**

**FULL MOON**

**MAYANS**

**CRESCENT**

**WANING MOON**

**GIBBOUS**

**CREATE A BRIEF FOLKTALE-STYLE STORY OF YOUR OWN TO EXPLAIN WHY THE MOON IS ALWAYS CHANGING.**

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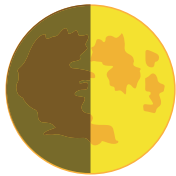
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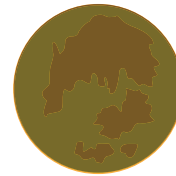
Waxing Gibbous



First Quarter



Waxing Crescent



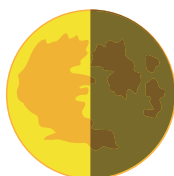
New Moon



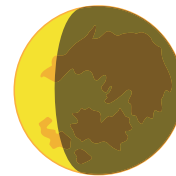
Full Moon



Waning Gibbous



Last Quarter



Waning Crescent