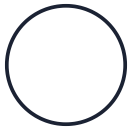
Moon Phases

Why does the Moon change shape? Learn the 8 phases and test yourself.

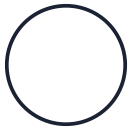
Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Shade the dark part of the Moon

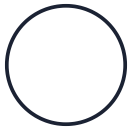
Each circle is the Moon seen from the Northern Hemisphere. Shade the part that is **in shadow** and leave the lit part white. (Hint: the Sun lights the right side first when the Moon is waxing.)



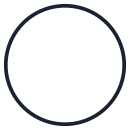
1. New Moon



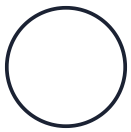
2. Waxing Crescent



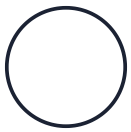
3. First Quarter



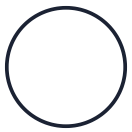
4. Waxing Gibbous



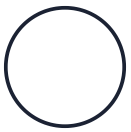
5. Full Moon



6. Waning Gibbous



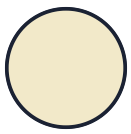
7. Last Quarter



8. Waning Crescent

2. Name the phase

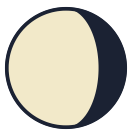
Word bank: New Moon · Full Moon · First Quarter · Last Quarter · Waxing Crescent · Waning Gibbous



A _____



B _____



C _____



D _____



E _____



F _____

3. Questions

1. About how many days pass from one New Moon to the next?

   _____

2. Does the Moon make its own light? Explain in one sentence.

   _____

3. Is the “far side” of the Moon always dark? Why or why not?

   _____

(T) (F) Moon phases are caused by the Earth’s shadow on the Moon.

(T) (F) A waning Moon is getting smaller each night.

Answer key

Moon Phases · for parents and teachers

1. **Part 1:** in each circle, the lit part is the part shown on the picture below (see the small moons). Phase 1 New Moon: all dark. 2 Waxing Crescent: a thin lit curve on the right. 3 First Quarter: right half lit. 4 Waxing Gibbous: lit except a thin dark curve on the left. 5 Full Moon: all lit. 6 Waning Gibbous: lit except a thin dark curve on the right. 7 Last Quarter: left half lit. 8 Waning Crescent: a thin lit curve on the left.
2. **Part 2:** A = Full Moon, B = First Quarter, C = Waning Gibbous, D = Waxing Crescent, E = Last Quarter, F = New Moon.
3. **Part 3:** (a) About 29 or 30 days (29.5). (b) No. It reflects light from the Sun. (c) No. The far side gets as much sunlight as the near side; we just never see it from Earth.
4. **True/False:** first is False (phases come from seeing different amounts of the Moon's lit half; Earth's shadow only causes eclipses); second is True.



Keep exploring

Try the lamp-and-ball experiment from the lesson at astraviator.com/learn/moon-and-sky/moon-phases-for-kids/ and fly to the Moon in our free 3D simulator at demo.astraviator.com.