SCIENCE

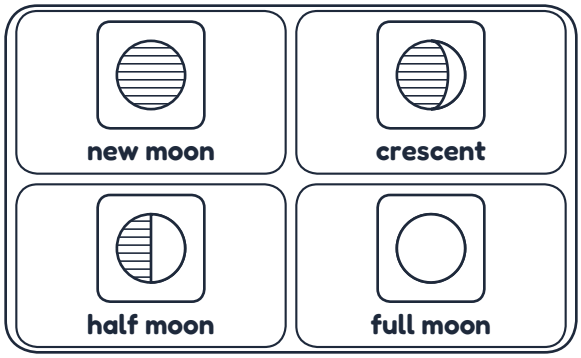
Phases of the moon

Name _____ Date _____

I can name the phases of the moon and put them in order.

1 How it works

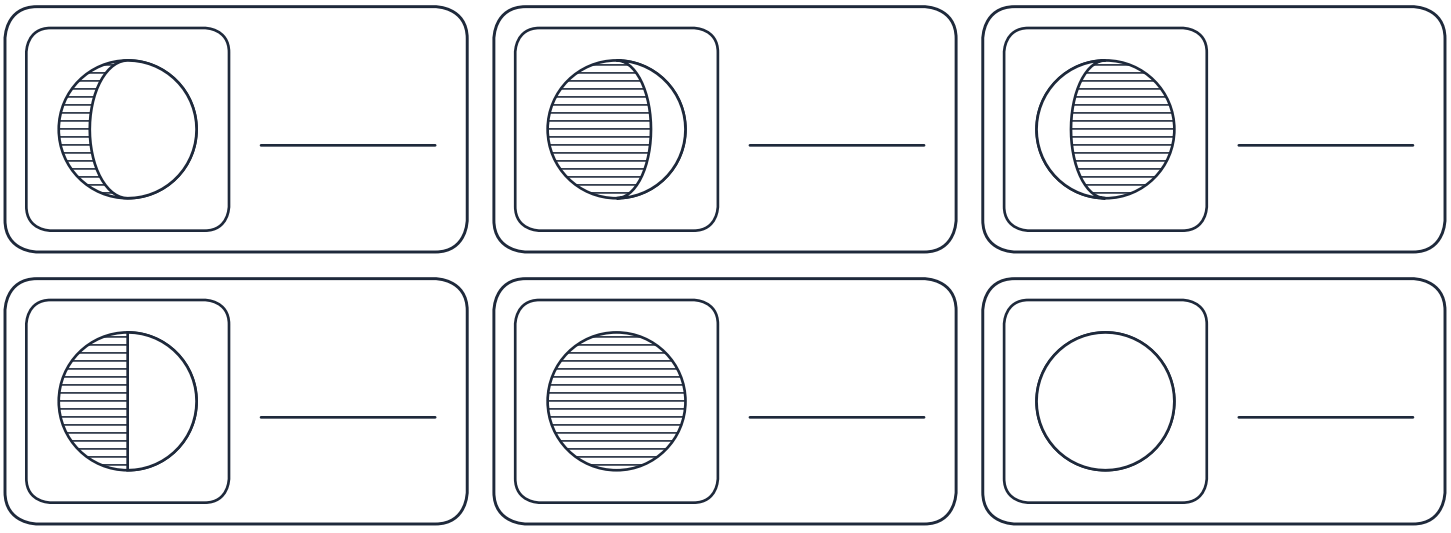
The moon does not make its own light. It shines because sunlight bounces off it. As the moon travels around Earth, we see different amounts of its lit side. These shapes are called phases: new moon, crescent, half moon, gibbous and full moon. One whole cycle takes about a month, 29 and a half days.



2 Name each moon phase

Use the words in the box.

new moon **crescent** **half moon** **gibbous** **full moon**



How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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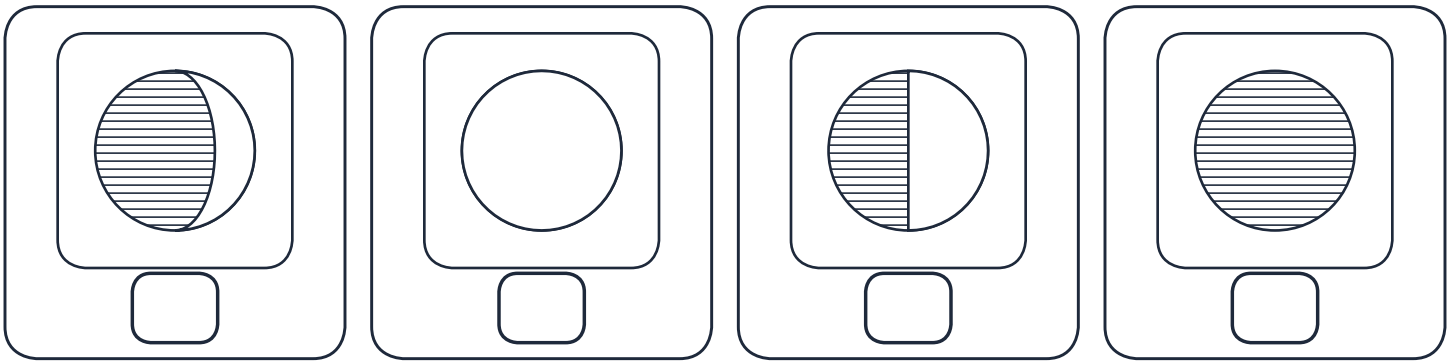
The moon cycle

Name _____ Date _____

I can put the moon phases in order.

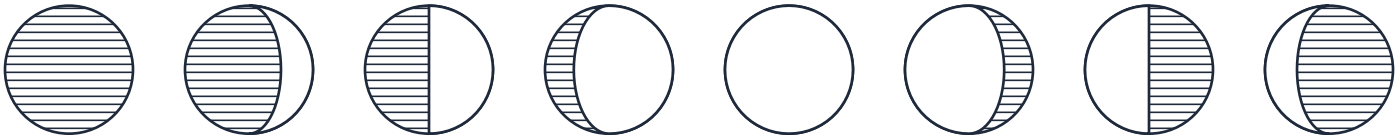
1 Number the phases from 1 to 4

Start with the new moon.



2 The whole cycle

Read it, then color the lit part yellow.



new moon · crescent · half moon · gibbous · full moon · gibbous · half moon · crescent

3 Fill in the blanks

Use the words in the box.

sun · full · month · crescent

1. The moon shines with light from the _____.
2. A _____ moon looks like a whole circle.
3. A thin, curved moon is a _____.
4. One moon cycle takes about a _____.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Think like a scientist

Name _____ Date _____

I can explain why the moon seems to change shape.

1 Think about it

1. Where does moonlight come from? _____
2. Why does the moon seem to change shape? _____
3. Why can't we see a new moon? _____
4. How long is one moon cycle? _____

2 True or false? Circle it.

1. We cannot see a new moon.	**true**	**false**
2. A full moon looks like a whole circle.	**true**	**false**
3. The moon makes its own light.	**true**	**false**
4. One moon cycle takes about a month.	**true**	**false**
5. The moon really changes its shape.	**true**	**false**

3 Draw the moon tonight. What phase is it?

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Try it: moon watch

Name _____ Date _____

I can observe the moon and record its phases.

1 You need

- a notebook
- a pencil
- a window
- a calendar
- a grown-up

2 What to do

1. With a grown-up, look at the moon at the same time each night or early morning.
2. Draw its shape in the chart and write the date.
3. Look again every 3 days for 2 weeks.
4. Is the lit part growing or shrinking?

3 I predict

Will the lit part grow or shrink this week?

_____

_____

4 What I see

Day	Draw the moon	Phase name
Day 1		
Day 4		
Day 7		
Day 10		

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: phases of the moon

1 Page 1

Phases: 1) gibbous; 2) crescent; 3) crescent; 4) half moon; 5) new moon; 6) full moon.

2 Page 2

Order: 2 (crescent), 4 (full moon), 3 (half moon), 1 (new moon).

Blanks: 1) sun; 2) full; 3) crescent; 4) month.

3 Page 3

Think: 1) Sunlight bouncing off the moon; 2) We see different amounts of its lit side; 3) Its lit side faces away from us; 4) About 29 and a half days.

True or false: 1) true; 2) true; 3) false; 4) true; 5) false.

Drawing: answers will vary. Check that the name matches the shape drawn.

4 Page 4: Try it!

Answers will vary with the date. If the lit part grows each night, the moon is waxing toward a full moon; if it shrinks, it is waning toward a new moon. Over about 29 and a half days the moon shows every phase, then the cycle starts again.

5 Teaching tip

Model the phases with a lamp as the sun and a ball on a stick as the moon. A child holds the ball out and turns slowly in place: everyone sees the crescent, half and full shapes appear.

Safety: look at the night sky with a grown-up, from a safe place.

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