

Moon Phases

Grade 3 • SCIENCE • Students recognize and sequence the Moon's commonly observed phases as its visible shape changes in a repeating monthly pattern. • Standards: 1-ESS1-1

Look at each Moon phase picture or question carefully. Write your answer on the line provided.

1. When the Moon looks like a complete bright circle in the night sky, we call it a FULL moon. Is this statement true or false?
2. When we cannot see the Moon at all because the side lit by the Sun is facing away from Earth, this phase is called the NEW moon. Is this statement true or false?
3. Look at this Moon phase: [Drawing shows the right half of the Moon lit up, left half dark]. This phase is called FIRST quarter. What fraction of the Moon appears lit up: one-fourth, one-half, or three-fourths?
4. The Moon's shape appears to change in a pattern that repeats about every 30 days. Is this pattern called a month or a year?
5. Put these three Moon phases in the correct order as they appear in the sky: Full Moon, New Moon, First Quarter. Write the order using commas between the phase names.
6. A WAXING crescent Moon shows a small sliver of light on the right side. Does this phase come right after the New Moon or right after the Full Moon?
7. Maria saw a Full Moon on March 5. About how many days will pass before she sees another Full Moon: 7 days, 15 days, or 30 days?
8. The WANING gibbous Moon comes right after the Full Moon and shows most of the Moon still lit up. Does the lit portion appear to be getting smaller or larger each night during this phase?
9. Place these five Moon phases in the correct order: Third Quarter, Full Moon, New Moon, Waxing Crescent, First Quarter. Write the order using commas between the

phase names.

10. Tommy observed the Moon every night for two months. He saw the Full Moon appear twice during that time. If the pattern continues, how many times would he see a Full Moon in six months?

Answer Key — Moon Phases

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. true
2. true (*A new moon happens when the Moon's lit half faces away from us.*)
3. one-half
4. month
5. New Moon, First Quarter, Full Moon (*The Moon goes from New (dark) to First Quarter (half lit) to Full (completely lit) in the first half of the month.*)
6. right after the New Moon
7. 30 days (*The Moon's phases repeat in a pattern that takes about one month or 30 days.*)
8. smaller
9. New Moon, Waxing Crescent, First Quarter, Full Moon, Third Quarter (*The Moon progresses from New (dark) through waxing phases to Full (bright) then through waning phases back to New.*)
10. 6 (*If the Full Moon appears once per month, then in 6 months it would appear 6 times.*)