

Moon Phases

Grade 4 • SCIENCE • Recognizing the repeating sequence of major moon phases and using the approximately monthly cycle to reason about calendar dates. • Standards: 1-ESS1-1

Answer each question about the moon's phases. Remember that the moon goes through its cycle of phases in about 29 to 30 days.

1. The major moon phases in order are: New Moon, First Quarter, Full Moon, and Last Quarter. What phase comes right after New Moon?
2. What moon phase comes right before Full Moon?
3. If you see a Full Moon tonight, what phase will come next in the cycle?
4. The moon takes about how many days to go through all of its phases and return to the same phase again?
5. Maya saw a New Moon on March 5. About how many days will it take before she sees another New Moon?
6. There was a Full Moon on April 12. About what date would you expect the next Full Moon?
7. Carlos observed a First Quarter moon on June 8. About what date would you expect to see a Full Moon?
8. If there is a New Moon on January 20, and the cycle takes about 30 days, on about what date will the next New Moon occur?
9. Lena saw a Last Quarter moon on September 3. The next major phase is New Moon, which happens about one week later. Then about how many more days after that until Full Moon?
10. A Full Moon occurred on February 10. If someone wants to see the next Full Moon and the one after that, on about what two dates should they look?

Answer Key — Moon Phases

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

1. First Quarter
2. First Quarter
3. Last Quarter
4. 29 or 30 days
5. About 29 or 30 days
6. About May 11 or May 12 (*A full lunar cycle is about 29-30 days, so add about 29-30 days to April 12*)
7. About June 15 or June 16 (*From First Quarter to Full Moon is about one week or 7-8 days*)
8. About February 19 (*January 20 plus 30 days equals February 19*)
9. About 14 or 15 days (*From New Moon to Full Moon is about half the cycle, or about 14-15 days*)
10. About March 11 and April 10 (*Add about 29-30 days twice: February 10 plus 29 is March 11, and March 11 plus 30 is April 10*)