



Name _____

Date _____

Phases of the moon

A lot of times you must have wondered while star gazing that sometimes the moon looks like a little star of light and sometimes it is a perfectly shaped illuminating circle. The moon keeps changing shapes throughout the month and each shape of the moon is referred to as a phase. One of the reasons why moon has phases is because it orbits earth and as you know that the earth revolves around the sun. Additionally, the moon revolves separately around the earth. As real as it might seem to us but the moon does not change size throughout the month. It looks bigger or smaller to us because specific parts of it might be in the shadow.

It now makes a lot of sense why the new moon appears as a dark outline. It is because no part of the moon that is facing the earth is illuminated by the light of sun. Another phase of the moon is called waxing crescent phase where the moon looks small. It is because only a small part of the moon that is facing the earth is lit by the sun. In waning crescent phase, it hides further behind the shadows and only one fourth of it is appeared.

Another phase, known as one-quarter phase refer to the shape of the moon where we see about one fourth of the moon. Waxing gibbous phase is when we see more of the moon. Finally, there is full moon phase where we see a large bright circle because all of the side of the moon is lit by the sun.



Phases of the moon

Questions

1. What do you understand by the term 'phase' of the moon?

2. What is the reason behind the moon appearing to be of different sizes?

3. Name the two phases of the moon in which it appears as only a tiny silver?

4. Which one of the phases of the moon you like most and why?

5. In which phase of the moon does it appear almost full but not quite?



Vocabulary Test

1. Illuminate

- a) To light up
- b) To revolve around
- c) To fill with colors

2. Crescent

- a) Half of a circle
- b) Full circle shape
- c) A curved sickle shape

3. Star gazing

- a) Observation of the stars
- b) Observation of the planets
- c) Observation of the moon