

# The light of the Moon



## Background knowledge

As the Moon travels around Earth, we see different amounts of the Moon lit up by the Sun. This is known as the *phases of the Moon*. When the Moon is lit up and is round, it is called a *full moon*. The amount of the Moon's sunlit side we see, gradually shrinks or waxes. When the Moon is not lit up by the Sun, it is called a *new moon*. During a new moon, you cannot see the Moon in the sky. After a new moon, the amount we can see of the sunlit side grows, or waxes, each night until it is a full moon again.

## Science activity

Draw a line from each of the phases below to show its correct position in the sequence from new moon to new moon. (A gibbous phase is when about three-quarters of the Moon is lit up.)

Gibbous waxing



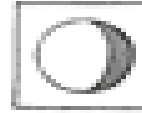
Crescent waxing



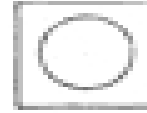
Crescent waning



Gibbous waning



Full moon



New moon

New moon

## Science investigation

What does the Moon look like tonight?  
What phase is showing? Make your own chart to keep track of the Moon's phases over a month.

