

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 wanes. 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.)

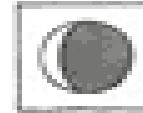
Gibbous waxing



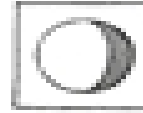
Crescent waxing



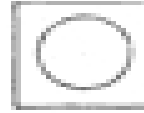
Crescent waning



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.

