



wildsight  
EDUCATION

# Chase the Moon

Students will learn about astronomical features of the Moon and its various phases

Clear night sky, Moon Phases calendar (page 2), or a Moon Phase App: **Android / iPhone** (optional)

Grades: K-7 15-30 minutes

## Fun Facts about the Moon

- The gravitational pull of the Moon controls the rise and fall of tides on Earth and also slows the planet's rotation.
- The phases of the Moon serve as calendar markers for human beings.
- The Moon is a dusty ball of rock, a quarter of the size of Earth.
- The Moon's surface has mountains, huge craters and flat planes called "seas" made of hardened lava.
- It takes 27.3 days for the Moon to travel all the way around the Earth and complete its orbit.
- The Moon does not produce its own light, we see the Moon shine bright because it reflects light from the sun!

### What is a New Moon?

A New Moon is when the Moon cannot be seen because we are looking at the unlit half of the Moon. The New Moon phase occurs when the Moon is directly between the Earth and Sun.

Did you know a solar eclipse can only happen at New Moon?

### Night Sky Watch

Ever wonder why the Moon appears to change shape each night? That's because as the Moon orbits the Earth, the Sun lights up a different part of the Moon's

## June 2020 Lunar Cycle

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 FM: 3:13 PM (EDT)	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 LQ: 2:24 AM (EDT)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 NM: 2:42 AM (EDT)	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 FQ: 4:16 AM (EDT)	29	30				

surface. So that means it's just our VIEW of the Moon that's changing, not the Moon itself. This is called the Phases of the Moon, or the Lunar Cycle.

Print out the attached Moon Phases template calendar or use the Moon Phases App (**Android / iPhone**)

When looking up at the sky, find the Moon. What shape is it? Where is it in the sky?

Fill in the date on the June Moon calendar and draw what you see for that date.

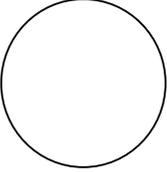
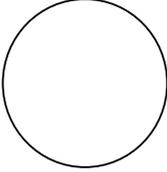
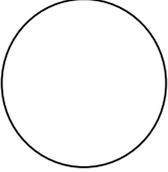
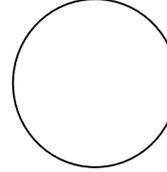
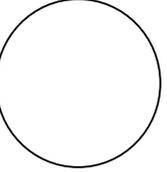
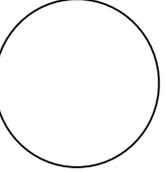
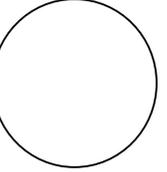
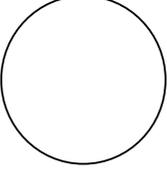
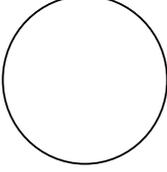
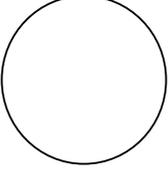
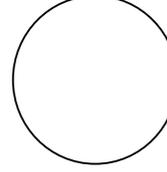
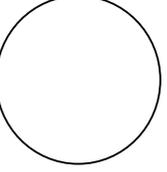
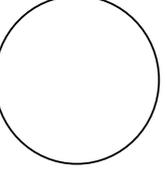
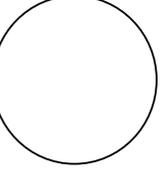
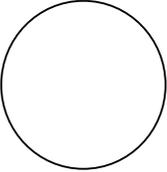
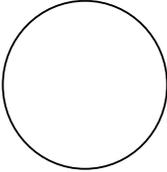
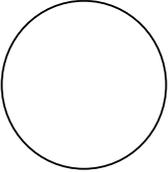
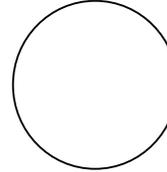
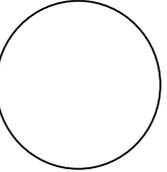
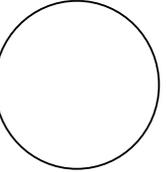
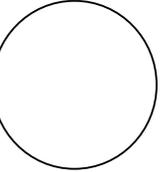
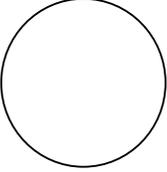
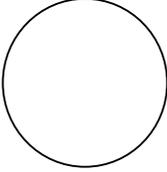
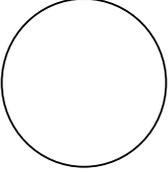
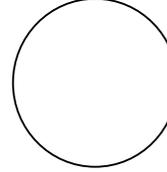
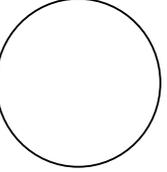
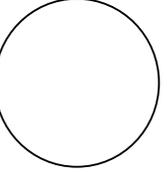
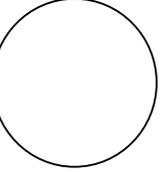
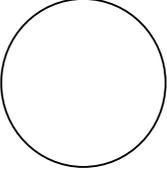
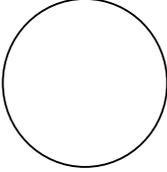
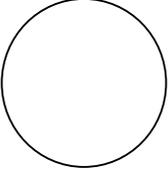
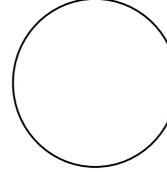
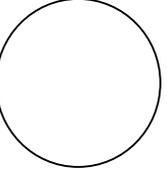
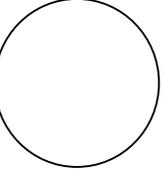
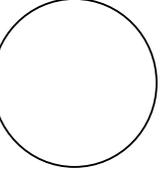
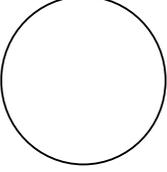
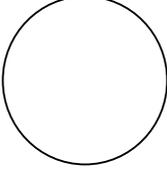
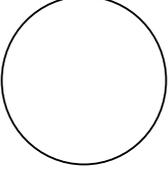
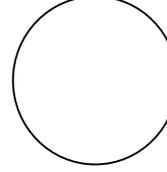
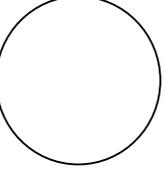
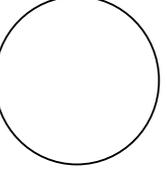
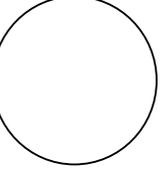
Try to do 3 or 4 night sky watches to see how the Moon and stars change night to night.

You could even challenge yourself and see if you can fill in the complete rotation around the Earth's orbit!

Print out the Moon Phases Calendar (next page) for your Night Sky Watch. Draw the Moon each night you see it. How does it change from night to night? Week to week?

# Moon Phases Calendar

Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
						
						
						
						
						



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