

The Phases of the Moon

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There are eight phases of the moon. The new moon is the first phase. When we look at the new moon we see only a shadow. You cannot see the lighted half of the moon. In the new moon phase the moon, the sun, and the Earth are lined up. It rises in the east, the same as the sun and sets in the west the same time as the sun.

The second phase of the moon is the waxing crescent. Waxing means getting larger. We only see a small part of the moon. The light is on the right side. The moon is no longer between the Earth and the sun. The waxing crescent is a thin crescent shape.

The third phase of the moon is the first quarter. The first quarter is about one week after the new moon. Half of the moon is lit on the right in this phase. It is one-quarter of the way around the Earth. The first quarter moon looks like a semi-circle. It is also one-quarter of its way through the monthly phases.

The fourth phase of the moon is the waxing gibbous. The waxing gibbous is when more than half of the moon is lit. It is almost a full

moon. More of the moon is moving into the sunlight. The waxing gibbous is almost halfway through its orbit.

The fifth phase of the moon is the full moon. The full moon is when you can see all of the lighted part of the moon. It happens about two weeks after the new moon. Now the Earth is located between the moon and the sun. The entire side of the moon is in sunlight. The full moon rises about the same time as the sun sets. It is halfway through its orbit.

The sixth phase of the moon is the waning gibbous. Waning means getting smaller. Now the light is on the left side. We are seeing more of the side that is in shadow. The waning gibbous is less than a full moon but more than a quarter moon.

The seventh phase of the moon is the last quarter moon. The last quarter moon rises about midnight and sets around noon. It is three-quarters around Earth. Half of the moon is lit during this phase. The last quarter moon looks like a backward uppercase D.

The last phase of the moon is the waning crescent. It is a crescent shaped moon on the left side. A large piece of the moon is in Earth's shadow. It is almost a new moon. There is only a small sliver of light on the left side.

Facts about the moon

- The moon travels around Earth every twenty-eight days
- It revolves around Earth
- Waxing= getting larger
- Waning=getting smaller
- In space the moon is opposite the sun
- 4 lunar phases new moon, first quarter, full moon, last quarter

