



Phases of the Moon Chart

Have you ever noticed that the Moon doesn't always look the same? Some nights it is round and bright while other times it is shaped more like a banana (crescent) or even too dark to see at all. The Moon goes through all of its phases over 28 days, or almost one month. Create a chart of the Moon phases and compare it to the Moon the next time it's in view.

Please note: Younger children may need assistance with cutting or gluing.

Materials

- 1 printed Moons and labels (page 3)
- 1 printed Phases of the Moon title (page 3)
- 1 printed "Tonight the Moon looks like this" arrow (page 3)
- Piece of cardboard (part of a cardboard box works well)
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Tape (optional)
- String (optional)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils (optional)

Directions

1. Cut out:
 - a. 8 printed moon pictures and labels
 - b. "Phases of the Moon" title
 - c. "Tonight the Moon looks like this" arrow
 - d. Space pictures



2. Glue the "Phases of the Moon" title at the top-center of the cardboard.
3. Put the printed moon pictures in the following order (see the picture below) on the cardboard under the title to make sure they will all fit:
 - a. Waxing Crescent (bright crescent on the right side)
 - b. First Quarter (right half of the moon is bright)
 - c. Waxing Gibbous (dark crescent on the left side)
 - d. Full Moon (whole circle)
 - e. Waning Gibbous (dark crescent on the right side)
 - f. Last Quarter (left half of the moon is bright)
 - g. Waning Crescent (bright crescent on the left side)
 - h. New Moon (all dark)



4. Make sure there is enough room underneath your Moon pictures to fit the "Tonight the Moon looks like this" arrow.
5. Once they are in order, glue each of the printed moon pictures and labels to the cardboard.
6. (Optional): Flip cardboard over and tape the string to the top of the cardboard. Now you can hang your Moon Phases chart up!
7. Decorate the Moon Phase chart any way you want. Add color, draw other space pictures, it's totally up to you!
8. Roll a piece of tape sticky-side out and place it on the back of the "Tonight the Moon looks like this" arrow. Put it under the picture of what you think the Moon might look like tonight.
9. The next time you see the Moon in the sky, see if it looked how you guessed it would. Move the arrow.
10. Use your chart to see how the Moon changes over one month.

PHASES OF THE MOON



WAXING CRESCENT



FIRST QUARTER



WAXING GIBBOUS



FULL MOON



WANING GIBBOUS



THIRD QUARTER



WANING CRESCENT



NEW MOON



Tonight the Moon looks
like this.