

What Are Moon Phases?

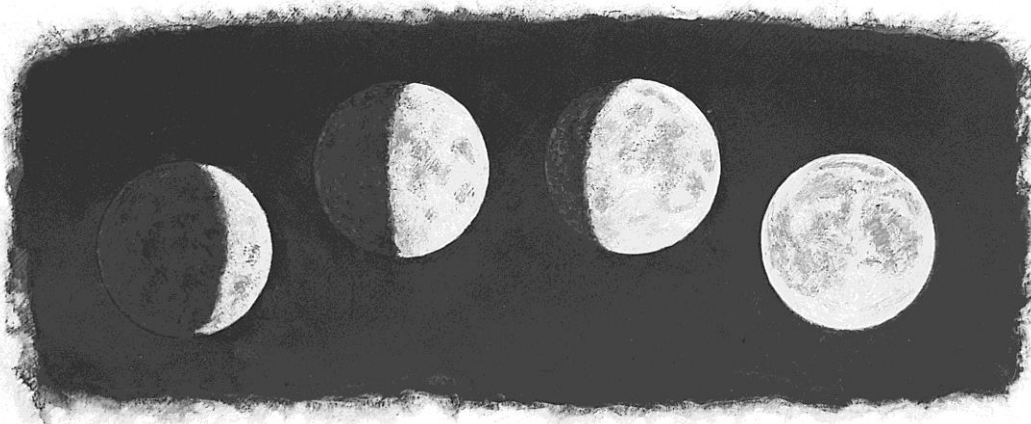
Science Words

Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

moon phase [MOON FAYZ] change in the appearance of the moon's shape

Phase and *face* sound almost alike. You can think of a *moon phase* as if it was a face. Seeing a full moon is like looking directly at someone's full face. The first quarter moon as well as a third quarter moon are like looking at someone's profile, or side view.



What Are Moon Phases?

Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on Earth's moon.
2. The moon is a satellite that completes an orbit around Earth in about one month.
3. The moon is only about one-fourth the size of Earth, but it looks large because it is close to Earth.
4. The moon has no air, wind, or liquid water.
5. We can see the moon because light from the sun reflects from it and back to Earth.
6. We see only one side of the moon because the moon takes the same amount of time to rotate once as it does to orbit Earth once.
7. As the moon orbits Earth, the side we see may be completely lit or only partly lit.
8. The moon looks full when the side that faces Earth is completely lit.
9. The moon is in a crescent, or C-shape, when the side that faces Earth is only partly lit.
10. One month on our modern calendar is based roughly on the moon's phases.