

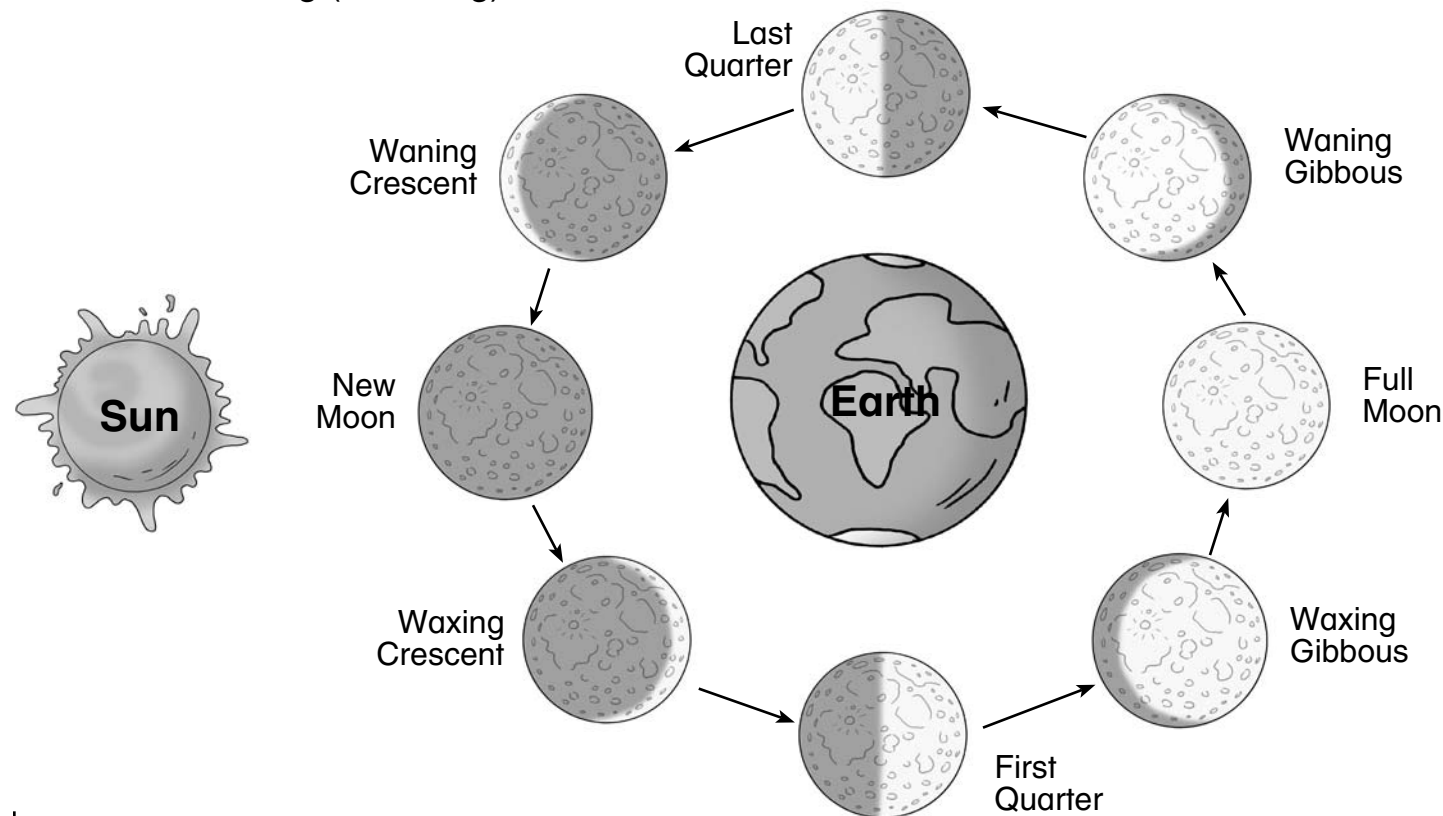
Lunar Cycle: The Moon Through the Month

Read the passage and study the pictures.

The Moon is not a planet like Earth is. It is a **satellite**, an object in space that orbits another object. The Moon orbits Earth about once every 29 days. This period of time is called the **lunar month**. The Moon does not make its own light, like the Sun. Instead, it reflects light from the Sun back to us on Earth. The amount of reflected sunlight we see changes as the Moon moves. This is why the Moon seems to change shape.

The diagram shows the Moon's shapes, or **phases**. The first phase is the **new moon**. At the start of the lunar month, the Moon is between the Sun and the Earth. Its darkened side faces our planet. We cannot see the Moon at all. As the Moon changes position, we see a sliver of its lighted surface. This is called a **crescent moon**. When the Moon has finished one-fourth of its trip, it appears half lit. This is the **first quarter** phase. When the Moon looks like an almost-complete circle, it is called a **gibbous moon**.

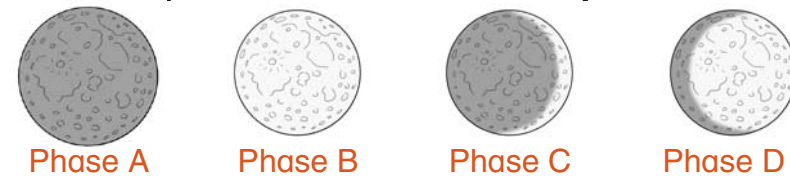
Halfway through its orbit, the Moon appears fully lit. This is the **full moon** phase. Earth is between the Sun and the Moon at this time. In the first half of the lunar month, we say the Moon is waxing (growing). In the second half, it is waning (shrinking).



Find the answer that correctly completes each sentence.

- 1 The Moon make its own light.
- 2 The Moon revolve around Earth.
- 3 For the first half of the lunar month, the Moon is .
- 4 For the second half of the lunar month, the Moon is .
- 5 During the new moon phase, people on Earth reflected light from the Moon.
- 6 During the full moon phase, people on Earth reflected light from the Moon.
- 7 The first phase after the new moon is the phase.
- 8 We see the most reflected sunlight during the moon phase.

Look at the pictures to answer the questions.



Remember! The Moon appears to grow during the first half of the lunar month. It appears to shrink during the second half of the lunar month.



- 9 Phase A is called the moon.
- 10 Phase D is called the moon.
- 11 Phase B happens Phase A in the lunar month.
- 12 Phase C happens Phase D in the lunar month.

Answer Box

A after	B cannot see	C waxing gibbous	D waxing crescent	E full	F before
G waxing	H new	I waning	J does not	K can see	L does



Watch the Moon for one week. Draw what you see each night and identify moon phases.

