



Wondernauts in Space

Wondering About the Skies Above Us

Moon Phases

Recommended for: Ages 7 and up



The moon orbits around our planet, earth. The moon is doesn't emit light like the sun. What you see when you look at the moon is light from the sun being reflected off the surface of the moon. A phase of the moon is how much of the moon appears to us on earth to be lit up by the sun.

In this activity you will learn about moon phases and make your own observations of the moon.

You will Need

- A Notebook or some lined paper
- Pencil

(1) Wonder

- What does the moon look like? Does it always look the same?
- When do you see the moon?
- What do you think the moon is made of? What does the surface of the moon look like?
- Why do you think the moon has phases?
- What does it mean to make an observation?

(2) Watch or Read

[Watch this video from GenerationGenius to learn about the phases of the moon!](#)

Read *The Moon Seems to Change* by Franklyn Branley, illustrated by Barbara & Ed Emberley

(3) Look

Learn about the moon by making observations. After it is dark, go outside and look up at the sky. What do you see?

(4) Record

Use your notebook to keep a journal. Include:

- A sketch of what the moon looks like (if you can see it)
- The date and time.
- The location of the moon in the sky (what direction is it, how high above the horizon is it)
- What is the weather like?
- Name the phase of the moon

(5) Repeat

Observe and record your observations about the moon for a few nights.

After a few observations, think about:

- How has the appearance of the moon changed?
- Does the moon always appear in the same place in the sky?
- Can you guess what the moon will look like tomorrow night?

Keep observing for a whole month to see all the moon phases!

What else do you wonder about the moon?

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Wondernauts.org

Share with the Wondernaut community your journal entries - you can take photo of them, or retype them.

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