

Moon Shape Journey

Track the Moon's changing visible shape across one month.

SC.4.E.5.2 "Describe the changes in the observable shape of the moon over the course of about a month."

NAME _____

DATE _____

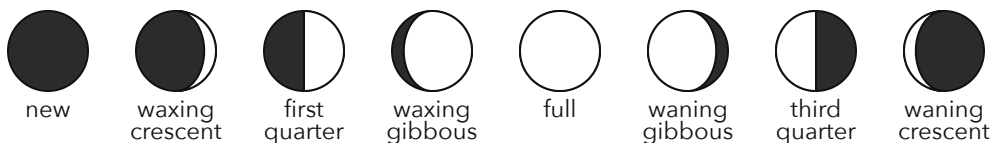
1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Use the text and model pictures to trace one cycle. Compare the visible lit portions from first quarter to full Moon and from full Moon to third quarter.

A Month of Moon Shapes

- ① From a backyard, the Moon can seem to change its shape, but the Moon itself stays round. The Sun always lights one half of the Moon. As the Moon orbits Earth, we see a changing portion of that lighted half. This makes the Moon's visible shape change in a repeating pattern that takes about one month.
- ② Near the new moon, the side facing Earth looks dark, so the Moon may be hard to see. After that, a thin bright crescent appears. The bright part grows larger each night. About a week after new moon, the Moon looks like a half circle. This stage is called first quarter, even though we see half of its visible face.
- ③ Between first quarter and full moon, more than half of the Moon looks bright. This rounded shape is called gibbous. At full moon, the Earth-facing half is fully lit and looks like a bright circle. Then the bright part begins to shrink. The Moon moves through gibbous, half circle at last quarter, and crescent stages before the pattern starts again. Growing light is waxing, and shrinking light is waning.



2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Put these stages in order from the start of the waxing pattern through full moon: crescent, full moon, first quarter, new moon, gibbous.

- 2** How does the Moon's visible bright part change from first quarter to full moon?

- 3** What happens to the bright part after a full moon, and what three shapes come next?

- 4** Why can the Moon look like different shapes even though it stays round?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In the three panels, sketch three Moon stages in a waxing sequence. Label each stage, then explain on the lines how the bright part changes from the first panel to the last panel.

		
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PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Use the text and model pictures to trace one cycle. Compare the visible lit portions from first quarter to full Moon and from full Moon to third quarter. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Put these stages in order from the start of the waxing pattern through full moon: crescent, full moon, first quarter, new moon, gibbous.	new moon, crescent, first quarter, gibbous, full moon
2	How does the Moon's visible bright part change from first quarter to full moon?	It grows from a half-circle shape to a fully bright circle.
3	What happens to the bright part after a full moon, and what three shapes come next?	The bright part shrinks. The Moon then appears gibbous, half circle at last quarter, and crescent.
4	Why can the Moon look like different shapes even though it stays round?	As the Moon orbits Earth, we see a changing portion of its lighted half.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Panel 1: crescent. Panel 2: first quarter. Panel 3: gibbous. The bright part grows larger from the first panel to the last panel.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the stages, such as half lit for first quarter or last quarter. For the panel task, accept any correctly ordered waxing sequence, with a visible increase in the bright portion and accurate labels. Pictures are synthetic reference models, not dated observations. Right-lit waxing convention matches a usual Northern Hemisphere upright view; actual orientation varies. Preserve the independent drawing task.