

Moon Phase Loop

Track the Moon's repeating changes.

4.6 "The student will investigate and understand that there are relationships among Earth, the moon, and the sun. Key relationships include the motions of Earth, the moon, and the sun; the causes for Earth's seasons..."

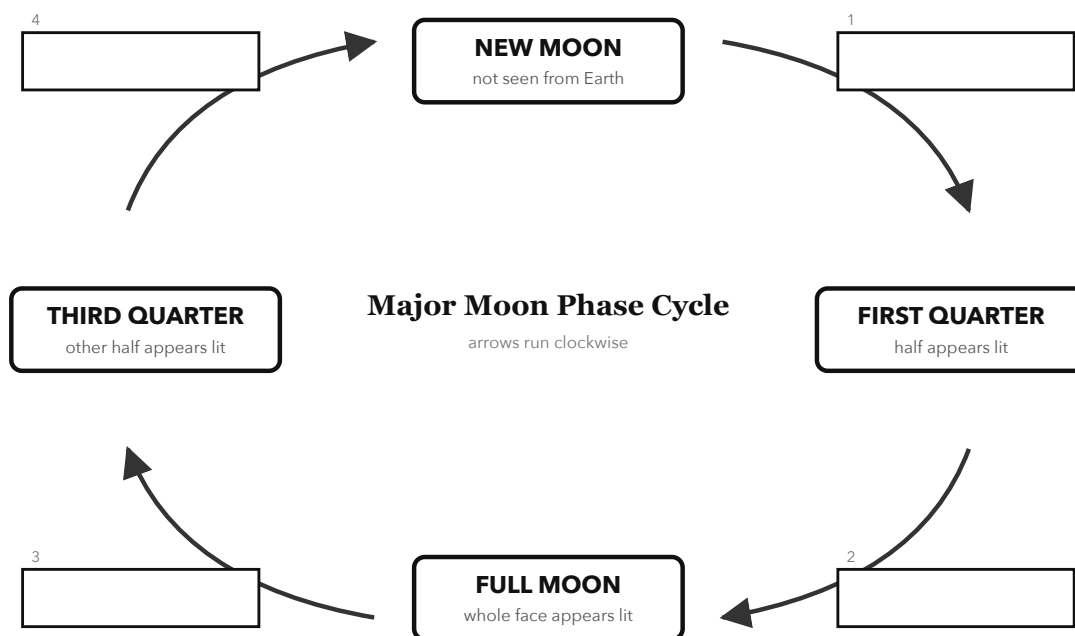
NAME _____

DATE _____

1 LABEL THE MODEL _____ Word bank below

Use the word bank. Write one process in each numbered box on the arrow leading to the next stage.

WORD BANK	Orbits, waning crescent	Orbits, waning gibbous	Orbits, waxing crescent
	Orbits, waxing gibbous		



2 RUN THE MODEL Use your finished diagram

1 Which word-bank process belongs on the arrow after FULL MOON?

2 Which major phase comes after THIRD QUARTER?

3 Which two word-bank processes happen before the Moon reaches FULL MOON?

3 CHECK IT Before you turn it in

☐ I matched each process to an arrow.

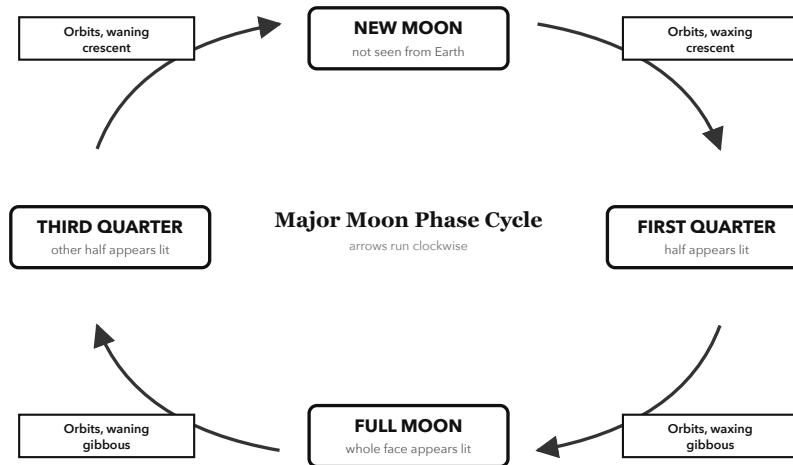
☐ I followed the arrows in order.

☐ I checked that the last arrow returns to NEW MOON.

TEST THE MODEL

What is one part of the real Moon phase system that this model leaves out?

PART 1 • COMPLETED MODEL



PART 2 • RUN THE MODEL

1. **Orbits, waning gibbous.** (Which word-bank process belongs on the arrow after FULL MOON?)
2. **NEW MOON.** (Which major phase comes after THIRD QUARTER?)
3. **Orbits, waxing crescent and Orbits, waxing gibbous.** (Which two word-bank processes happen before the Moon reaches FULL MOON?)

TEST THE MODEL (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- It leaves out the crescent and gibbous phases between the four major phases.
- It does not show why the Moon's lit part appears to change from Earth.

Arrow answers begin after NEW MOON and follow the process list in order. Accept "last quarter" for THIRD QUARTER.