

What are the phases of the moon?



KEY TERMS

phases: the changing pattern of light and dark on the moon as viewed from Earth

waning: after the full moon; as the visible part of the moon decreases

waxing: after a new moon; as the visible part of the moon increases

UNDERSTANDING THE MOON'S PHASES

Figure A shows the moon in orbit. Study it and then answer the questions or fill in the blanks below.

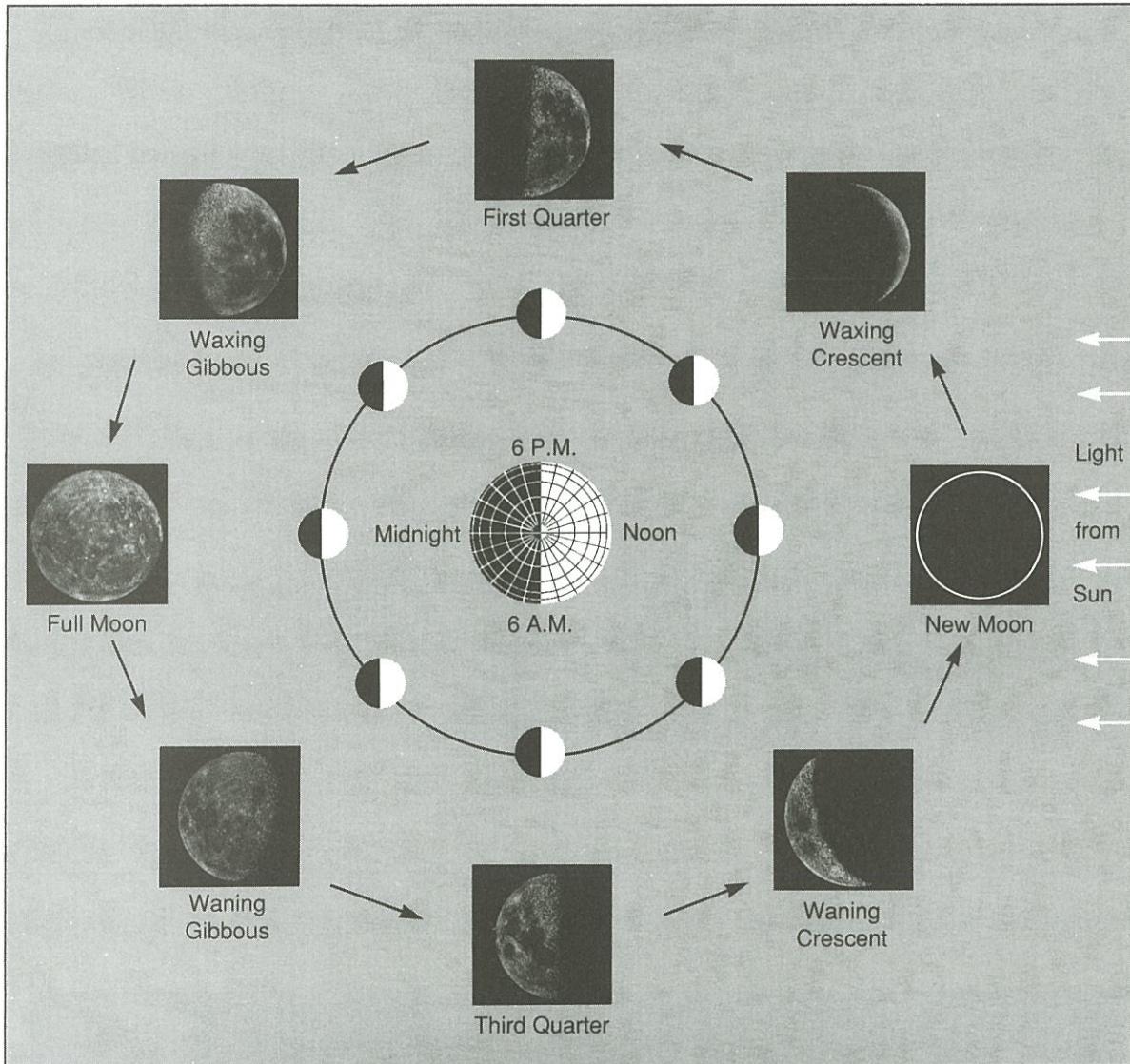


Figure A

The side of the moon facing the sun is always lit up. But we cannot see all of this lit up area every night. The boxes show how the moon looks to us from the Earth. Notice how its shape seems to change during the orbit.

1. What do we call the different shapes the moon seems to have? _____
2. Where does the moon get its light? _____
3. How much of the moon is always bright? _____
4. Can we see all this light every night? _____
5. At which phase can we see all of the lighted half of the Moon? _____

FILL IN THE BLANK

Complete each statement using a term or terms from the list below. Write your answers in the spaces provided. Some words may be used more than once.

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| sun | waxing crescent | phases |
| full moon | reflects | orbits |
| change | moon | one-half |
| waning crescent | new moon | |

1. Our closest neighbor in space is the _____ .
2. The moon gets its light from the _____ . Some light from the moon _____ onto Earth.
3. About _____ of the moon is always bright.
4. The shape of the lit portion of the moon seems to _____ .
5. The different shapes that the lit portion of the moon seems to have are called _____ .
6. The different shapes that the lit portion of the moon seems to have depend upon how much of its light _____ back to the Earth.
7. The moon changes appearance because it _____ the Earth.
8. At _____ we cannot see the moon.
9. At _____ we see about one whole side of the moon.
10. The phases that show the least of the moon are _____ and _____ .

TRUE OR FALSE

In the space provided, write "true" if the sentence is true. Write "false" if the sentence is false.

- _____ 1. The Earth orbits the moon.
- _____ 2. The moon gives off its own light.
- _____ 3. The moon reflects light from the sun.
- _____ 4. About one-half of the moon is always lit.
- _____ 5. We can always see the lit half of the moon.