

What Shape Is the Moon Tonight? *(cont.)*

Parent Letter for Moon Observations

To the Teacher: The time for sunset can be found in most weather reports on TV or in the newspaper. Add the time to the letter which is 30 minutes after sunset, the time students should observe and draw the moon.

Date _____

Dear Parents,

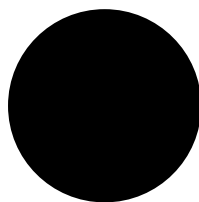
We are studying the changing shapes of the moon (phases), and each child has been asked to look at the moon and draw it each evening. (A helpful chart of the moon's phases appears below.) Please help your child with this activity. It is important that he or she observe the moon at about the same time each evening. We will be viewing the moon approximately 30 minutes after sunset which will be about _____ p.m. Have your child go outside to get a good view of the moon. Ask him or her to draw exactly what is seen and bring the drawing to school the next day. We will be using those drawings to place the correct phase on a Classroom Moon Record daily.

It will take approximately two weeks for us to gather the data we need for this study. This activity will help your child understand that the moon is constantly changing its shape as well as its position every day.

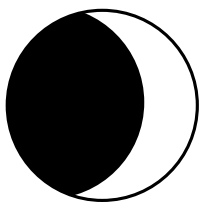
Thank you for helping your child learn about the moon. You are always welcome to come visit our class to see our moon record.

Cordially,

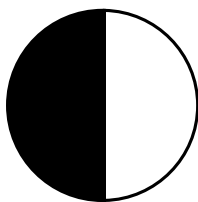
Phases of the Moon



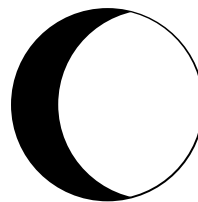
New Moon



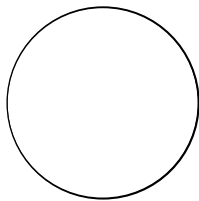
Crescent Moon



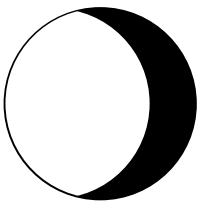
First Quarter Moon



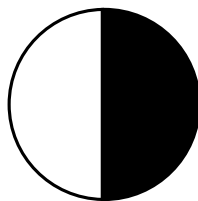
Gibbous Moon



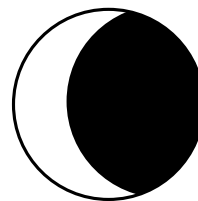
Full Moon



Gibbous



Last Quarter



Last Crescent



What Shape Is the Moon Tonight? *(cont.)*

Student Moon Record

Name: _____ Date: _____

Go outside where you can see the moon clearly. Make a drawing of the moon each evening about _____ P.M. Write the date and time. Bring this record to school each day.

Date: _____ Time: _____	Date: _____ Time: _____	Date: _____ Time: _____
Date: _____ Time: _____	Date: _____ Time: _____	Date: _____ Time: _____
Date: _____ Time: _____	Date: _____ Time: _____	Date: _____ Time: _____
Date: _____ Time: _____	Date: _____ Time: _____	Date: _____ Time: _____
Date: _____ Time: _____	Date: _____ Time: _____	Date: _____ Time: _____

What Shape Is the Moon Tonight? *(cont.)*

Classroom Moon Record

To the Teacher: Make a transparency of this page and project it onto a large piece of black butcher paper. The horizon line should be at least two feet (60 cm) long. Use white crayon to trace the arc and horizon. Trace the marks along the arc in pencil so they are not seen. These are the positions of the moon phases. The phases begin with the new moon at the western horizon, first quarter moon 90 degrees from east and west, and full moon on the eastern horizon.

Color one of the self-adhesive dots orange to represent the sun. Place it on the classroom chart in the location indicated on this drawing, to represent the sun's position 30 minutes after sunset.

The sky is represented by the arc. The view is to the south.

