



# What does the Moon look like?

## Journey to the Moon

22

### time

20 & 50  
minutes,  
spread across  
two lessons

### learning outcomes

- To:
- learn to work together
  - learn to move to music
  - learn to listen to rhythm and music
  - recognise four phases of the Moon (New Moon, First Quarter, Full Moon, Last Quarter)

### materials needed

- photographs of phases of the Moon (Appendix)
- books and pictures for the Moon Table
- sheet of A3 white paper
- pictures from magazines / internet related to the Moon
- music (for example: Debussy's Claire de la lune)
- book Moon Man by Tomi Ungerer

**Tip.** The Moon is easy to see early on autumn and winter mornings.

## Preparation

Encourage the children to bring to school pictures or objects related to the Moon. These objects might include: a book, a lamp, or a cuddly toy they always take to bed with them. Make sure there are plenty of books and pictures for the **Word Bank** activity on the Moon Table.

For the activity **What does the Moon look like?** use the Internet to find out when there is a full Moon.

For the activity **Phases of the Moon** you will need the photographs of the various phases of the Moon from the Appendix. One showing Full Moon, one of the Last Quarter, one of the New Moon, and one of the First Quarter.

For the activity **Dance to the Phases of the Moon** you will need some music. Choose a variety of different songs with a range of different rhythms.



## Word Bank 10 min.

Prepare a table where you can display all kinds of things about the Moon. The children can contribute to the collection items from home or art work related to the Moon. Draw a Moon on a large (A3) sheet of white paper. Encourage the children to talk about what they associate with the word 'Moon'.

Include the objects on the Moon Table in your discussion. Draw the objects mentioned on the sheet of paper. Write the appropriate word underneath. At the end, when there are enough items on the sheet, go through them all once again with the class. Hang the Word Bank in the classroom. Every time a new concept is mentioned add it to the Word Bank.

**Tip.** Begin the lesson by reading a story about the moon, for example *'Moon man?'* by Tomi Ungerer.



The children discover how the appearance of the moon changes in the course of one month.



## What does the Moon look like? 10 min.



Give the children the first part of the worksheet to take home and encourage them to complete Task 1 of Week 1 on an evening when there is a Full Moon. If it is cloudy and they cannot see the Moon very well, explain that they should draw and describe the part of the Moon that they can see.

In that case encourage the children to look again the following night. If they can see the Moon clearly that evening, they can make another drawing. Give the children the task of looking at the Moon again exactly one, two, and three weeks later and recording their findings on the worksheet under week 2, 3, and 4.

You will need to remind the children of this task each week.

The next day, discuss what the children have drawn for each phase.

**Tip.** Carry out this activity in the gym.



## Phases of the Moon 20 min.

At the end of the four weeks, discuss the completed worksheets. For each phase, discuss their observations and drawings of the Moon. Encourage the children to show their drawings to the rest of the class. Ask if they can see any differences in the pictures from Week 1 to Week 4. To explain things clearly, draw the four phases of the Moon on the board (see the photographs in the Appendix).

Explain that the Moon does not always look the same. Sometimes it looks like a complete circle, sometimes you can only see a bit of it, and sometimes you can't see the Moon at all! Explain that from the Earth we always see the same side of the Moon, but the Sun shines on a different part of the Moon each time because the Moon is not always in the same place. We can't see the Moon if the Sun is shining on the part of the Moon that faces away from us. We can see a complete circle or face of the Moon when the Sun shines on the part that is facing the Earth.

Now show the children the photographs of the four phases of the Moon.

Start by showing the photograph showing the New Moon.

Ask the children which photograph comes next. And after that? Work together to put the photographs in the right order. After this, encourage the children to complete Task 2 of the worksheet. In this way the children embed what they have learnt during this lesson.

Explain to the children that the white part of the Moon is the part that the Sun is shining on. This is the part of the Moon that you can see from the Earth. The Sun is not shining on the dark part, which is why it is almost impossible to see it.

Encourage the children to put the pictures in the right order.

**Good to know.** You can use the following to help you remember the phases of the Moon: during the First Quarter the visible part of the Moon forms a '**b**' (for **begin**). During the Last Quarter of the Moon the visible part of the moon forms a '**d**' (for **end**).



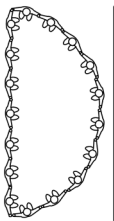
## Dance to the Phases of the Moon 30 min.

Now that the children know what each Phase of the Moon looks like, they are going to copy them in a dance. First practise the steps. When the children have learnt the steps, you can put the music on and turn it into a dance. The instructions for the dance, together with illustrations, are below:

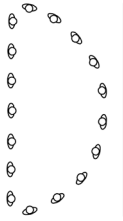
- **step 1.** Begin on one side of the classroom. All of the children kneel down. Half the children kneel in a semicircle with their backs to the wall. All the children hold hands (**New Moon**).
- **step 2.** The children stand up. Now the Moon becomes visible (**First Quarter**).
- **step 3.** The children in the straight line facing the wall walk backwards so that a full circle is created (**Full Moon**).
- **step 4.** The children whose backs are to the wall walk towards the other children, forming a straight line (**Last Quarter**).
- **step 5.** All of the children kneel down again. The Moon is no longer visible (**New Moon**).
- **step 6.** The children stand up. The last children to walk form a semicircle again. In this way the begin situation is repeated (**First Quarter**).

By repeating the steps the children move across the room. The dance can be repeated as often as you want. After step 6 continue with step 3.

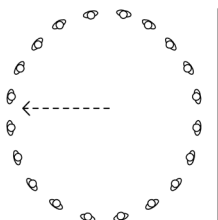
1 New Moon



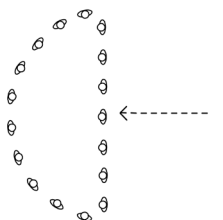
2 First Quarter



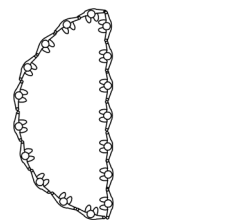
3 Full Moon



4 Last Quarter



5 New Moon





# 22

## Worksheet



### What does the Moon look like?



1 What does the Moon look like?

You are a real researcher.

Researchers draw and describe

everything they see. Now you are going to do that.

Fill in the sections below.

Try to draw as accurately as possible.



day:

time:

week 1

describe HERE what the Moon looks like

draw HERE what the Moon looks like

day:

time:

week 2

describe HERE what the Moon looks like

draw HERE what the Moon looks like

day:	time:	week 3

describe  
HERE what  
the Moon  
looks like

draw HERE  
what the Moon  
looks like

day:	time:	week 4

describe  
HERE what  
the Moon  
looks like

draw HERE  
what the Moon  
looks like

## 2 Phases of the Moon



Here you can see four phases of the Moon. Do you know what they are called?

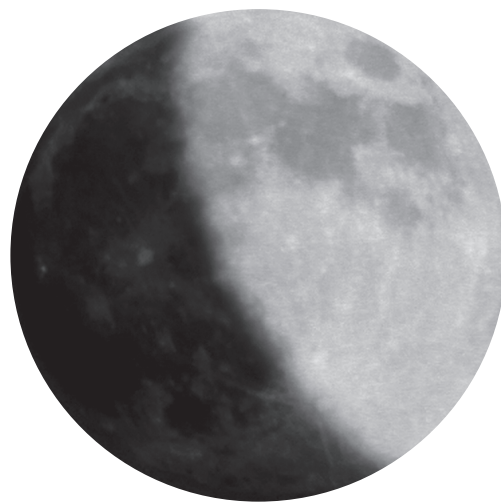
Choose from:

**New Moon • Full Moon • Last Quarter • First Quarter**

Write the correct name under each picture.



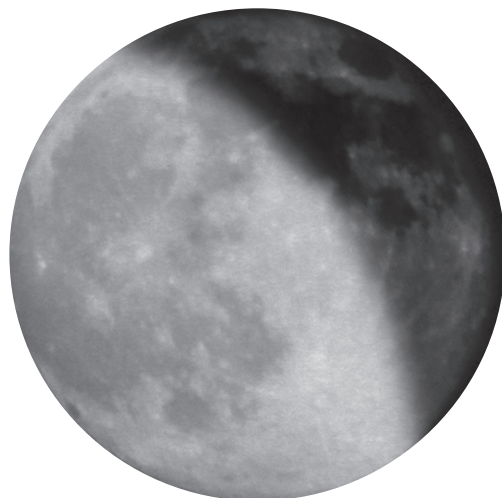
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