

Phases of the Moon



We are going to learn about the phases of the moon in this week's science task.

You may have found out that different planets have a different number of moons. We will be focussing on the Earth's moon. Please watch the YouTube video (link below) and then answer the questions in full sentences.

1. What do 'phases' mean?
2. How long does it take for the Moon to orbit Earth?
3. Where does the word 'month' come from? Why?
4. What is surprising about the Moon's bright appearance? Where does the brightness come from?
5. What is the 'terminator'?
6. When can a solar eclipse happen?
7. 'Waxing' means growing. Why do we use this word to help describe two phases of the moon?
8. What other name is given to a 'half-moon'? Why?
9. When can a lunar eclipse happen? Why?
10. Why do we use the word 'waning' to describe a phase of the moon?

Tonight, look at the moon and attempt to identify what phase it is in? What phase comes next? Draw and label your observations.

Moon Phases Model

Using your newly acquired knowledge I would like you to create a Moon Phase Model. Include the different phases, their names and the correct order. I have provided some example models below. You could utilise light and shadow to help show the phases (e.g. a torch). If you cannot create a 3D model then you are able to make a detailed poster.

