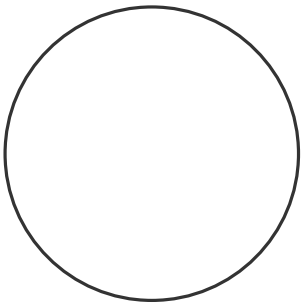
One Moon, three views

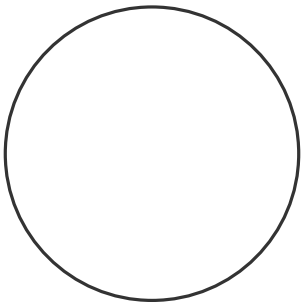
The Moon stays round. Look at its bright part.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

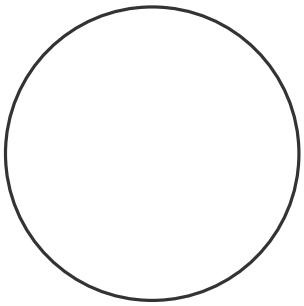
1. Shade what looks dark. Leave the bright parts white.



Crescent



Half Moon



Full Moon

2. Why does the Moon look different? Draw or tell.

3. Circle the idea that matches the model.

The Moon stays round

The Moon changes its real shape

One round Moon, changing views

10-minute lesson | Suggested ages 5-8, with adult support

THE TEN-MINUTE PLAN

0-2 min | Remember a Moon

Ask children to describe a Moon they have seen. Was it a thin curve, a half circle or a full circle? Ask whether they think the Moon itself changed shape.

2-5 min | Find three views

Open Moon magic and pause the automatic movement. Move the Moon around Earth with the paper tab. Stop at a crescent, a half Moon and a full Moon. Point to the sunlight and compare the view from Earth at each stop.

5-8 min | Draw what looks dark

Children shade the dark parts of the three worksheet circles, leaving the bright parts white. They can copy the paused model. Invite a drawing or spoken answer about why the view changes, then read the final choice aloud.

8-10 min | Explain the change

Ask: Did our Moon shrink, or did the bright part we can see change? Listen for a changing view of reflected sunlight. If a child says Earth's shadow makes the phases, distinguish ordinary phases from a lunar eclipse.

Open the activity

ninaslittleuniverse.com/?chapter=moon-magic

Science reference: NASA

https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/moon-phases/en/

Learning goal

Children can describe Moon phases as different views of the Moon's sunlit half, while the Moon itself stays round.

Before the lesson

One shared screen, a pencil, and page 1 of the worksheet for each child or pair. No colour printing needed.

Suggested answers

1. Crescent: leave a thin bright curve. Half Moon: leave half white. Full Moon: leave the whole circle white. Either left or right illumination is acceptable for the first two drawings.

2. Accept the idea that we see different amounts of the sunlit half as the Moon travels around Earth. The Moon reflects sunlight.

3. The correct final choice is The Moon stays round. Earth's shadow causes a lunar eclipse, not the ordinary phase cycle.

Adapt it

For younger children, complete just one circle and explain aloud. For an extra challenge, ask them to find two different positions that show a half Moon and compare which side looks bright.

Scan for the guide and activity

ninaslittleuniverse.com/learn/moon-phases