Science and technology · Grade 4

Phases of the Moon

Read or look closely

The Moon does not make its own visible light. We see sunlight it reflects. The visible lit portion changes as the Moon orbits Earth.

Answers

1. Where does the Moon’s visible light come from?

From the Sun. The Moon reflects it.

2. What is the phase called when the part of the Moon we see looks fully lit?

Full moon.

3. Reread the model. As the Moon moves around Earth, do we always see the same amount of its lit side? Explain.

No. We see a different portion of the sunlit side.

4. Sketch a full moon and a crescent.

A lit disk and a narrow lit slice.

5. What could you record each evening to follow a cycle of phases?

Record the date and lit shape, noting cloudy nights.