

Vocabulary: Phases of the Moon



Vocabulary

- Axis – a line connecting the North Pole to the South Pole.
- Crescent – Moon phase in which less than half of the Moon appears to be illuminated.
- First Quarter – Moon phase in which exactly half of the Moon appears to be illuminated (occurs when the Moon has gone one quarter of the way around Earth).
- Full Moon – Moon phase in which all of the Moon appears to be illuminated.
- Gibbous – Moon phase in which more than half of the Moon appears to be illuminated.
- Illuminate – to brighten with light.
- New Moon – Moon phase in which none of the Moon appears to be illuminated.
- Orbit – the path of a celestial body (such as a moon or a planet) around a larger celestial body.
- Revolve – to move around a central point.
- Rotate – to spin on an axis.
- Third Quarter – Moon phase in which exactly half of the Moon appears to be illuminated (occurs when the Moon has gone three quarters of the way around Earth).
- Waning – decreasing in size.
- Waxing – increasing in size.