

PHASES OF THE MOON

Oreo Cookie Activity

INTRODUCTION:

Have you ever looked up at the sky and noticed how the Moon changes shape each night? Ever wondered why... And how?

Well, here's the answer – it doesn't actually change shape at all! The Moon doesn't emit (give off) light itself, the moonlight we see is actually the Sun's light reflected off of the lunar surface.

So, as the Moon orbits the Earth, the Sun lights up different parts of it, making it seem as if the Moon is changing shape. In actuality, it's just our view of it that's altering! These different views are called phases and there are 8 phases in a Lunar Month (about 29 days).

The phases of the Moon are: *New Moon, Waxing Crescent, First Quarter, Waxing Gibbous, Full Moon, Waning Gibbous, Last Quarter, and Waning Crescent.*

ACTIVITY:

You will need Chocolate Oreos, Toothpicks, and Worksheets.

For this activity, students will be using Oreo cookies to demonstrate the eight different phases of the Moon on the provided worksheet. Following the diagram, students will remove portions of the cream filling to represent each phase and place it in the correct spot. Once the activity is finished, students may enjoy their yummy lunar snack!

