

Read the MOON

The moon is cold and dry, with craters, rocks and dust. We mark time by watching its CYCLES and PHASES, and even use it for simple navigation. The moon even controls the ocean tides!

Billie learnt about the moon from Anna Carlile, the author of a book called *Grounded*. Thanks Anna!

What are cycles and phases?

As the moon circles around the Earth, its shape seems to change. Of course, it is not actually changing – this is just how it looks to the human eye. It looks like a different shape depending on where the sun is, which can illuminate and hide parts of the moon.

Moon phases

The changing shapes of the moon are called phases. The moon moves through EIGHT phases in a cycle that lasts 29.5 days, the same amount of time it takes for the Earth to move around the sun. Here are some ways to describe the moon as it moves:

Have you seen the moon? You could try drawing the different moon phases on scrap paper, then cut them out and hang them up!



MOON PHASES

Waxing Moon

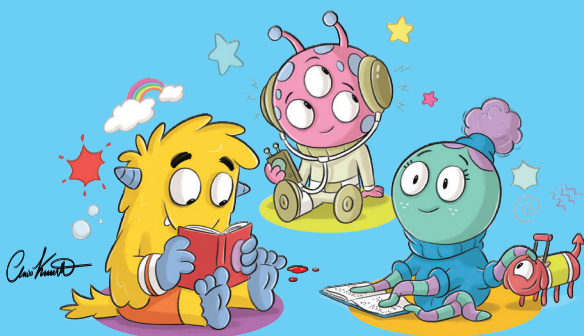
We say 'waxing' to describe the moon when its illuminated area is **GETTING BIGGER**. The moon always looks like it's getting bigger *before* the full moon.

Waning Moon

'Waning' describes the moon when its illuminated area is **GETTING SMALLER**. This happens *after* a full moon.

Crescent Moon

A 'crescent' moon is when only part of the moon is showing. It sits in the shape of a curved sliver.



Sally Rippin

All kids can be readers!

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