



Moon Observation Family Activity



INTRODUCTION

What is a Moon Phase?

Moon phases are one of the most unique and easily observed patterns in nature. Have you ever noticed how sometimes the Moon looks like a big, bright circle, but on other nights it is barely visible? That is due to the Moon's orbit around Earth. The Moon does not light up in the same way the Sun does. The light that we see coming from the Moon each night is light that is coming from the Sun and is reflected by the Moon. One half of the Moon is lit up at all times. However, depending on the location of the Moon in its orbit, we only see certain parts of the Moon being lit up at different times (see Figure 1). These different views of the Moon are called Moon phases. It takes about 29 days for the Moon to complete its phase cycle. That is one day longer than the time that it takes to complete one revolution around Earth.

MATERIALS

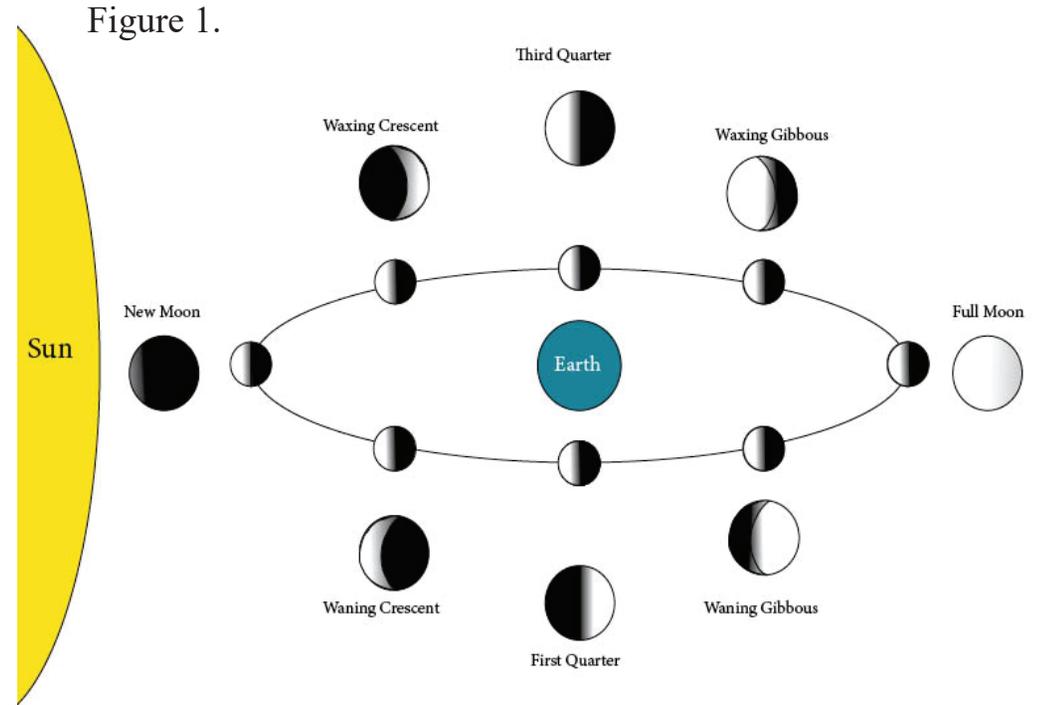
- Moon Observation Chart
- Coloring materials
- Pen/pencil

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Write the date of your observation below the first circle on the page.
2. Go outside, or look through a window and observe what the Moon looks like.
3. If you can, try to name the phase that the Moon is in.
4. Answer some of the following questions with your family.

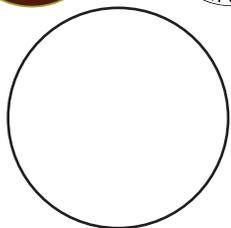
QUESTIONS

- Would the Moon phases be different if you lived in another country? Why or why not?
- Are there any other patterns you see in the night sky?
- Are these patterns predictable?
- Are there other patterns you can observe in nature?
- What causes the Moon to appear to change shape?

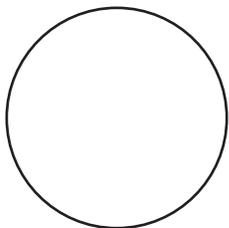




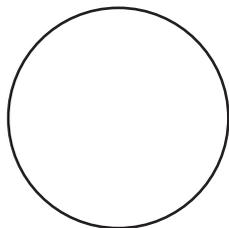
Moon Observation Chart



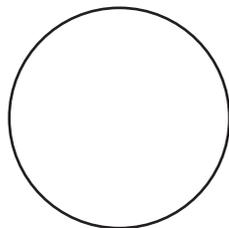
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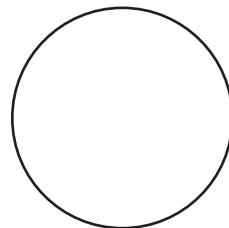
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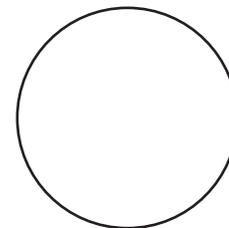
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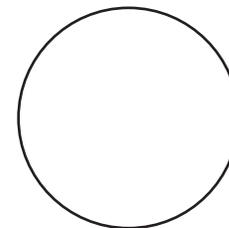
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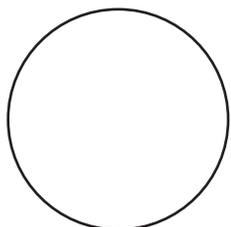
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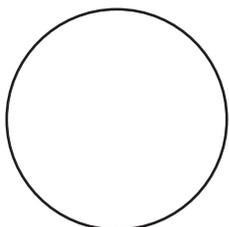
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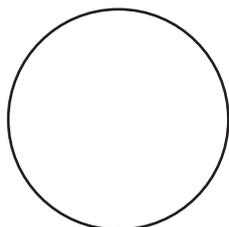
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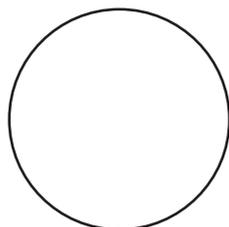
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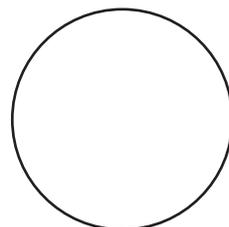
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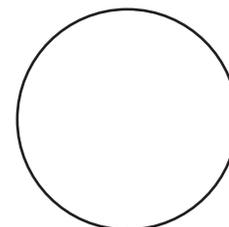
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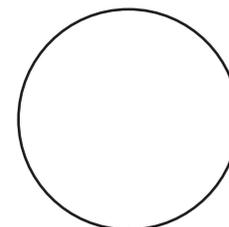
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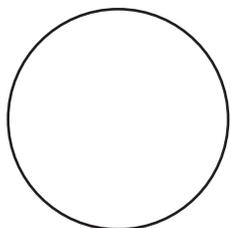
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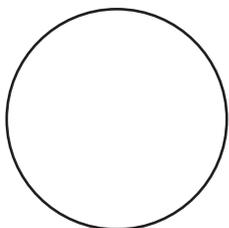
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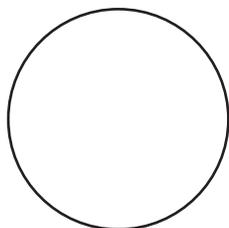
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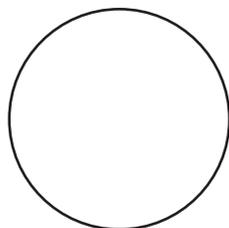
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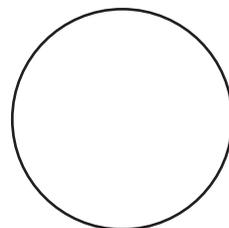
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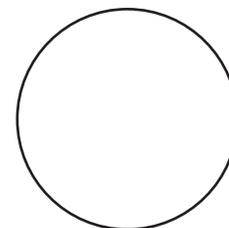
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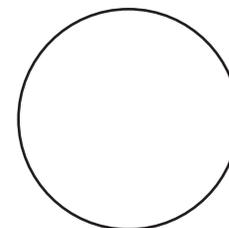
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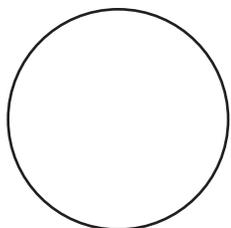
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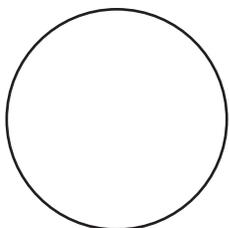
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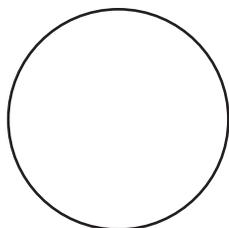
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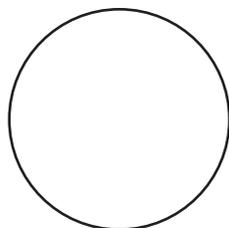
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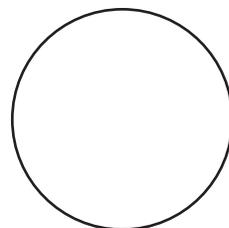
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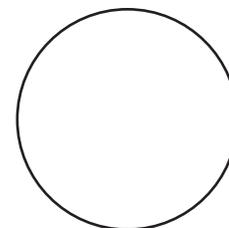
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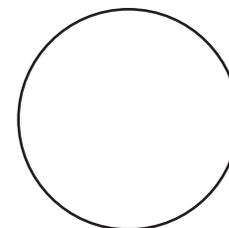
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