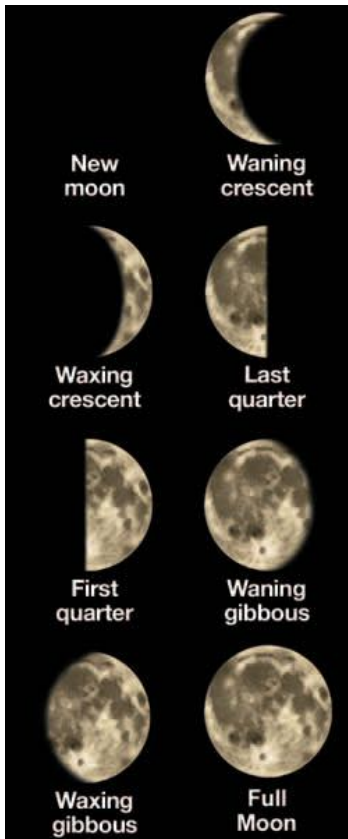


Moon Phases



The New Moon The Moon is not visible (except during a solar eclipse). The lighted side of the Moon faces away from Earth. This means that the Sun, Earth, and the Moon are almost in a straight line, with the Moon in between the Sun and the Earth.

Waxing Crescent The lighted fraction of the Moon is increasing. The crescent grows larger and larger each day.

First Quarter The right half of the Moon appears lighted and the left side of the Moon appears dark. The part of the Moon that appears lighted gets larger and larger every day.

Waxing Gibbous *Waxing* means increasing, or growing larger. The Moon appears to be more than half, but not fully, lit by sunlight.

Full Moon The Moon appears to be completely lit by sunlight. The lighted side of the Moon faces Earth. Earth, the Sun, and the Moon are nearly in a straight line, with Earth in the middle.

Waning Gibbous *Waning* means decreasing, or growing smaller. The lighted fraction of the Moon is decreasing. The amount of the Moon that we can see will grow smaller and smaller every day.

Last Quarter The left half of the Moon appears lighted, and the right side of the Moon appears dark. The part of the Moon that appears lighted gets smaller and smaller every day.

Waning Crescent The Moon appears to be less than half lit by sunlight. The fraction of the Moon that is lit is decreasing. The crescent will grow smaller and smaller each day, until the Moon becomes the New Moon.