

LKS2 – Lesson Plan 2

What are the phases of the Moon?

Aim: To learn about and identify the different phases of the Moon.	Key Words: Moon, phases, crescent, full moon, new moon	Preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moon phase chart or images• Styrofoam balls (for Moon models)• Flashlight (to simulate the Sun)• Paints and brushes (for Moon models)
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Prior Learning: basic understanding of the Moon and its appearance.

Warm-up:

Show a series of images or a chart depicting the phases of the Moon. Ask children what they notice about how the Moon changes shape over time.

Main Teach:

1. **Explain Moon Phases:** describe the eight main phases of the Moon (new moon, waxing crescent, first quarter, waxing gibbous, full moon, waning gibbous, last quarter, waning crescent) and how they occur due to the Moon's orbit around Earth.
2. **Demonstration:** use a Styrofoam ball and flashlight to simulate how the Moon's phases change with respect to the Sun and Earth. Rotate the ball to show different phases.
3. **Discuss the Cycle:** explain how the Moon's phases cycle every 29.5 days and what causes these changes in appearance.

Activity:

Create Moon Models: children paint Styrofoam balls to represent different Moon phases. They use their models to demonstrate how the appearance of the Moon changes over time. Each child creates a Moon phase chart to label their models.

Extension Challenge:

Moon Observation Journal: keep a Moon observation journal for a month. Track the phases of the Moon each night and compare findings with the phases on a Moon phase chart. Present the journal at the end of the month.

Plenary:

Review the Moon phases and how they are observed from Earth. Discuss why it is important to understand these phases and how they affect things like tides and nighttime light.

ART	Create a Moon phase mural by painting large phases of the Moon on a classroom wall or large poster.
D.T.	Design and make a rotating Moon phase model using craft materials to demonstrate the phases as the model spins.