

Y5 Moon

KS2 Y5 Science · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

How does the Moon move relative to the Earth?

Step 1 · What does the Moon travel round?

The Earth — it is Earth's natural satellite

Step 2 · How long does one orbit take?

About 27 days (roughly a month)

Step 3 · Does it spin?

Yes, once per orbit — so the same side always faces us

Answer: The Moon orbits the Earth about every 27 days, and spins once in that time.

Check: The word 'month' comes from 'moon'.

2. Now try one with the steps

Why does the Moon seem to change shape?

Step 1 · Where does moonlight come from?

Step 2 · How much of the Moon is lit?

Step 3 · What changes?

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What does the Moon orbit?

2. About how many days does the Moon take to orbit the Earth? (whole number)

3. Does the Moon make its own light?

4. What shape is the Moon?

5. What is the phase called when we see the whole lit side of the Moon?

6. What is the phase called when we can't see the Moon's lit side at all?

7. What does 'waxing' mean?

8. Why do we always see the same side of the Moon?

9. How much of the Moon is lit by the Sun at any time?

10. Put in order: full moon, new moon, first quarter.

11. Full moon is on 3 March. The phases repeat about every 29 days. On about what date in April is the next full moon? (day number)

12. Explain why the Moon seems to change shape.

13. The Moon's diameter is about 3,500 km and Earth's is about 12,700 km. Which is bigger, and by about how many km?

14. Why can we sometimes see the Moon in the daytime?

4. Before you hand it in

Phases are caused by the Earth's shadow on the Moon.

Phases happen because we see different amounts of the Moon's sunlit half.

The Moon only comes out at night.

Look for it in the morning or afternoon sky.

The Moon shines by itself.

Moonlight is sunlight reflected off the Moon's surface.

The Moon goes round the Sun, not the Earth.

Moon → orbits Earth. Earth → orbits Sun.