



## MOON PHASE FLASHLIGHT

Get a close-up look at the different phases of the moon

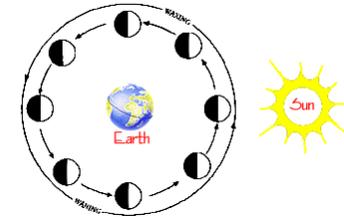
### Procedure

- Tape the Sun image on a wall. Hold your flashlight shining out from the Sun, to represent light from the Sun.
- Have your child hold the small ball representing the Moon. Have them hold the "Moon" near the flashlight. Point out that half the ball is lit, and half is dark.
- Next, have them face the "Sun" and hold up the ball between themselves and the Sun. Have them make an observation about what they see.
- Have them turn slightly to the left, still holding the Moon ball in front of them. After they make an observation about what they see, have them turn left again. Continue turning in a circle and making note of what the Moon ball looks like in each position.

*Make sure the child holds the Moon ball high enough that their body does not block the light.*

### Materials

- Small ball to represent the Moon
- Flashlight
- Image to represent the Sun



### Results

Using a model Sun and Moon, you have seen what each phase of the Lunar cycle looks like!

### Why?

The Moon doesn't shine, it just reflects light from the sun. Half of the Moon is always lit, and one side is always dark. However, from our perspective on Earth, only certain parts of the Moon face us at a time. When we are looking at the dark back of the Moon, it is called a New Moon. The next phase is a Waxing Crescent, when the Moon looks like a fingernail or crescent roll. Then First Quarter, Waxing Gibbous, and finally a Full Moon, when the shining front of the Moon is facing us. As the Moon continues to orbit, it will pass through the next phases of Waning Gibbous, Third Quarter, Waning Crescent, and then become a New Moon again.