

# Phases of the Moon

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Have you ever looked up at the night sky and noticed that the Moon changes its shape? The Moon goes through different phases, and it's like a special dance that happens high above us.

## **New Moon:**

At the beginning of the dance, we have the new moon. This is when the Moon looks completely dark in the sky. It's like a quiet start to the dance.

## **Waxing Crescent:**

After the new moon, a small sliver of light appears on the right side. This is called the waxing crescent.

## **First Quarter:**

As the Moon continues its dance, it moves on to the first quarter. Half of the Moon is lit up, and it's like the Moon is showing us its side.

## **Waxing Gibbous:**

After the first quarter, the Moon gets larger and larger until it becomes a large, round shape. This is called the waxing gibbous. It's like the Moon is getting ready for its grand performance.

## **Full Moon:**

And finally, the Moon is completely lit up. This is called the full moon. It's like the Moon is showing us its full face.

## **Waning Gibbous:**

After its grand performance, the Moon starts to get smaller again. This phase is called the waning gibbous. It's like the Moon is slowly saying goodbye.

## **Third Quarter:**

As the Moon continues its dance, it moves on to the last quarter. Again, half of the Moon is lit up, but this time it's the opposite half from before. It's like the Moon is showing us its other side.

## **Waning Crescent:**

Finally, the Moon gets smaller and smaller until it becomes a thin sliver of light. This is the waning crescent. It's like the Moon is finishing its dance and getting ready to rest.

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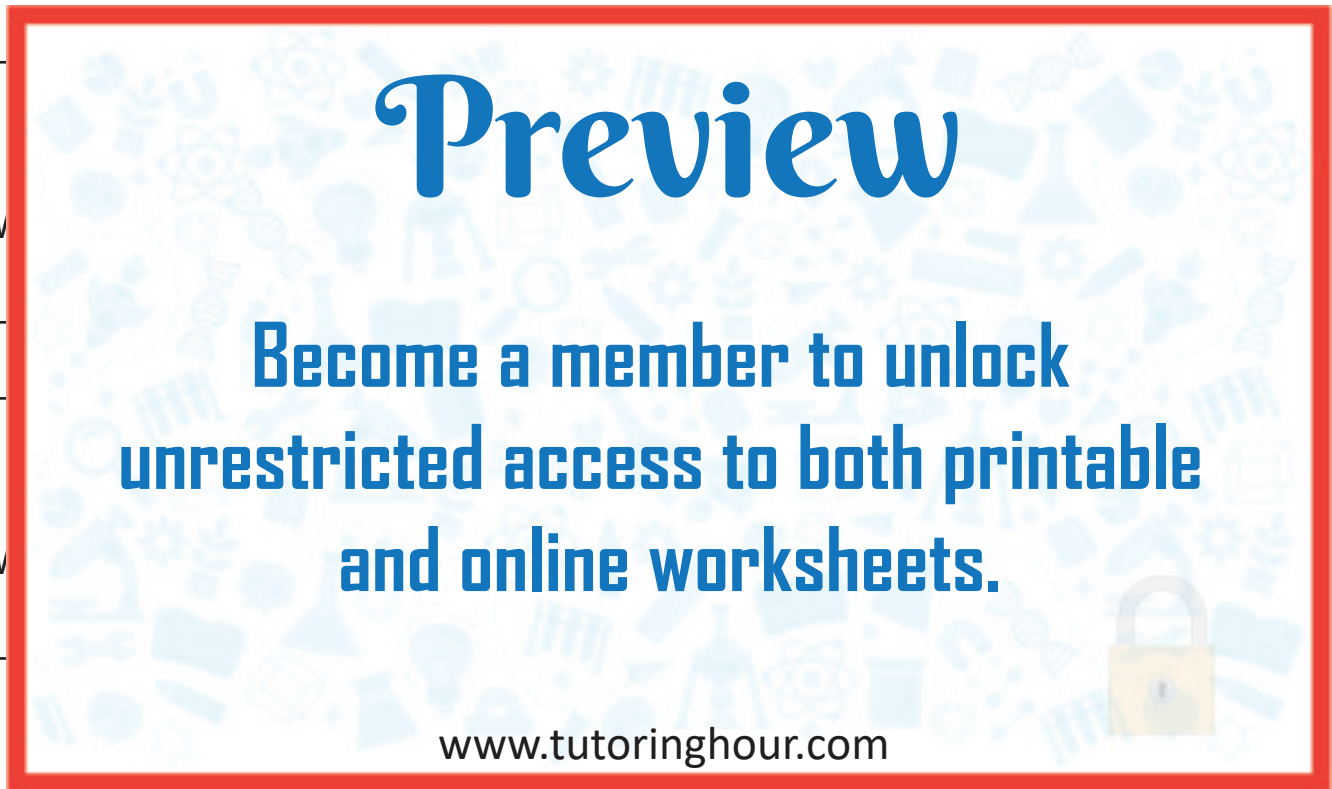
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And then, the cycle starts all over again with the new moon. This dance of the Moon's phases happens again and again, lighting up our nights with its changing beauty.

1) What is the new moon phase?

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3) W



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4) What is the phase called when the Moon is getting smaller after the full moon?

5) Describe the third quarter phase of the Moon.

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6) Compare the waxing and waning crescent phases.

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## Preview

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