

Digby's Moon Mission
SAMPLE Follow-up learning experiences
Developed by Johanna Grady; Early Childhood Educator
© Create It Kids
Linked to the Early Years Learning Framework

Experience 1: Phases of the moon

Links to EYLF

LO2 Children are connected with and contribute to their world

2.1.4 Children broaden their understanding of the world in which they live.

LO4 Children are confident and involved learners

4.2 Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating

After reading *Digby's Moon Mission*, revisit the different images of the moon, drawing attention to its size pgs. 19-20. Discuss the names of these moons. Diagram included below, for reference.

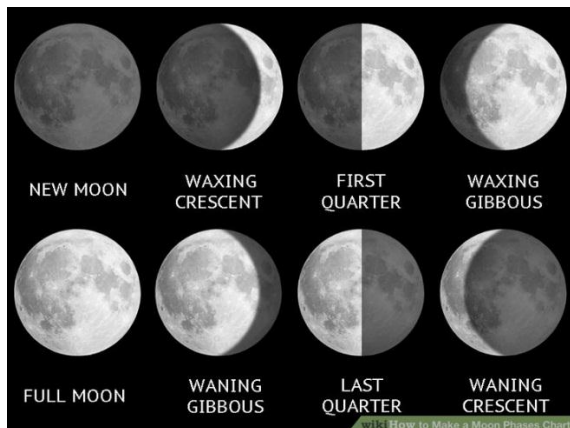


Image Source/Credit - <https://www.tes.com/lessons/pVPaaKgRZB71qw/moon-phases>

After looking at the phases of the moon discuss how these moon phases occur.

Resources

Black Paper
Styrofoam Ball
Cooking Skewer
Torch

Experiment

Show how the moon phases actually come from the sun's reflection on the moon. For best results have a dark room or dark background (to represent space), use a large styrofoam ball (the moon) and a torch (the sun). You are the Earth.

1. Turn lights out or use your dark background. (This helps to keep the light from bouncing back onto the ball from behind). Stick the skewer into the styrofoam ball (aka the moon)
2. To show the full moon, shine the sun (torch) directly onto your moon. The sun and the Earth are in about the same position here, which is why we see the full moon reflecting the sun's light.
3. Move your moon around the sun a little to show another phase of the moon. Part of the moon is now in shadow.
4. Continue moving the moon around the sun to show how the positioning causes part of the moon to be in shadow.
5. The next phase will have the sun in the direct opposite position of the Earth and the moon will be totally cast in shadow, this last phase is called the New Moon.
6. Continue to move the moon around the sun until back at the start position.