

**Phase 1: New Moon**

The Moon is between the Earth and the Sun. The side of the Moon facing the Earth is not illuminated by sunlight which appears invisible from Earth.

**Phase 2: Waxing Crescent**

This phase occurs after the New Moon and a slight crescent is visible on the right hand side of the Moon (Northern Hemisphere, North of the Equator) and the illuminated part grows gradually.

**Phase 3: First Quarter**

This phase happens when the Moon appears half lit on the right hand side as it is in the waxing phase. It is one quarter of the way through the Lunar cycle through the eight phases.

**Phase 4: Waxing Gibbous**

More than half of the Moon appears illuminated on the right hand side. We can observe that the Full Moon is on its way.

**Phase 5: Full Moon**

In this phase the Moon is on the opposite side of the Earth from the Sun. The entire side of the Moon facing the Earth appears lit by sunlight and it appears visible as a bright full Moon in the sky.

**Phase 6: Waning Gibbous**

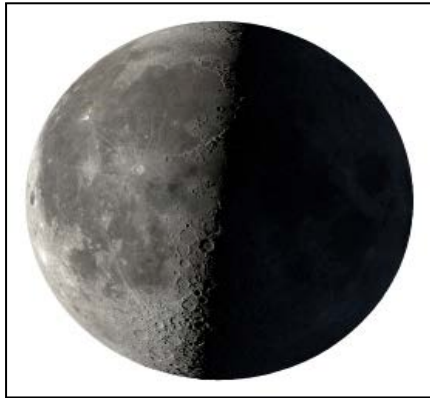
This is the phase where waning begins meaning decreasing. The Waning Gibbous is like the Waxing Gibbous but the lit part is getting smaller (decreasing) rather than bigger (increasing/growing). It appears lit on the left side (Northern hemisphere).

**Phase 7: Third Quarter**

Half of the moon appears illuminated by sunlight (opposite side from the First Quarter phase on the left side) which makes it visible as a semi-circle in the sky. This is the last quarter of the Lunar cycle.

**Phase 8: Waning Crescent**

This is the last phase of the Moon known as the Waning crescent that appears visible on the left side of the moon, and the illuminated side starts to decrease. After this phase, the lunar cycle commences again with the New Moon.



Alternative and optional matching resource  
(Formative Assessment)

Moon Phases in correct order	Description (match the description with the correct Moon phase).
1. New Moon	a) This occurs when half of the Moon appears illuminated by sunlight.
2. Waxing Crescent	b) This occurs a few days after the First Quarter and more than half of the Moon appears illuminated by sunlight on the right hand side.
3. First Quarter	c) This crescent occurs a few days after the Third Quarter that becomes visible on the left side of the Moon and the illuminated part gradually decreases over the next few days. The Lunar cycle starts again with the New Moon.
4. Waxing Gibbous	d) This occurs after the Full Moon when the illuminated part gradually decreases.
5. Full Moon	e) This occurs after the New Moon. The Moon becomes visible on the right side of the moon. Over the next few days the illuminated side increases.
6. Waning Gibbous	f) This occurs when half of the Moon appears illuminated by sunlight but half the opposite half from the First Quarter. It appears as a half circle in the sky but on the left side.
7. Third Quarter	g) This occurs when the Moon is on the opposite side of the Earth from the Sun. The entire Moon facing the Earth appears illuminated by sunlight. The Moon visibly illuminates brightly.
8. Waning Crescent	h) This occurs when the Moon is between the Earth and the Sun. The side of the Moon facing the Earth is not illuminated by sunlight which makes it invisible from Earth.