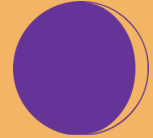


WHY DOES THE MOON CHANGE ITS SHAPE?

Wings of Discovery™— Let's Talk Science

What To Do:

Together with your child, observe the Moon at the same time for several nights. Do this 1-2 times per week, spread over several weeks (a month is suggested to see all the phases of the Moon). If you do not see the Moon, discuss why (it's too cloudy, etc.). Check the following night to see if the Moon is visible.



Each night, have your child draw a picture of the Moon as it appears in the sky. Give assistance if needed. Date the picture.



When you have observed several changes in the Moon phases, look at all the pictures with your child, in the order they occurred.



Talk about how we do not always see the whole shape of the Moon because, like the Earth, some parts do not always get light from the Sun. Some parts are in shadow. These shadow areas are nighttime on the Moon and the light areas are daytime.



What is Happening: Just like for the Earth, the Sun is the major source of light for the Moon. As the Earth moves around the Sun, the Moon moves around the Earth. The phases of the Moon—what we see from Earth—are caused by the light from the Sun being reflected from the Moon to the Earth. The amount of light varies, depending on the position of the Moon and the Earth in relationship to the Sun.



Science Concepts and Skills Learned

- * Basic understanding of the Moon and its phases;
- * Inquiry; problem-solving; language; personal, social and physical skills.

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