



## Activity 2: Phases of the Moon

### Whole Group Activity

#### Supplies

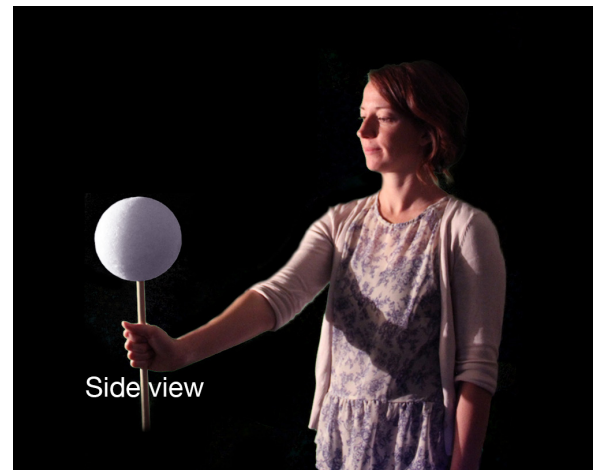
- Lamp (at least 100 watts) with the lampshade removed
- Ball (a basketball works well) or white Styrofoam® ball on a stick or pencil

**This activity needs a darkened room.**

#### Let's get started!

Try this whole-group demonstration to see the phases of the Moon in action! Before trying this with the kids, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wz01pTvuMa0>

Place the lamp in the center of the room. The lamp is the Sun. Have one of the kids hold the ball in her hand. The ball is the "Moon" and her head is the Earth. Darken the room except for the lamp.

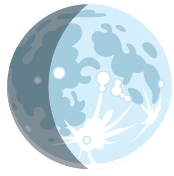


Have the child with the ball (the "Moon") stand several feet away from the lamp. Ask her to hold the ball straight out in front of her and face the lamp. The ball will appear dark because the lighted side of the ball is facing away from her. This position represents the [New Moon](#).

The other kids will need to stand right behind her and move with her to see the phases.

Holding the Moon straight in front of her, tell the child to turn her body a little bit to the left. Everyone will see a small crescent of light on the right side of the ball. This is called the [New \(Waxing\) Crescent](#).

Now have the child turn to the left a little more until the ball is half lit up. This is called the [First Quarter Moon](#), since the Moon has traveled one-quarter of the way around the Earth.



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Have the child continue turning around the circle until she is halfway around with her back to the lamp. At this point, the whole ball is lit — that's a **Full Moon**. If the child's head is in the way, she's created a lunar eclipse — just have her raise the ball up a bit to see the Full Moon.

Tell the child to continue slowly around the circle until she returns to where she started, while you name the other Moon phases as they appear.

You can then give other kids a chance to be the Moon and rotate through all the phases.

# Phases of the Moon

