



PAPER PLATE PHASES

Before you try this activity, visit Hayley, Tommy and Proton in the *Phases of the Moon* activity at www.wonderville.ca. In the activity, Hayley shares a Cree legend related to the sun and moon, while Tommy explains why we see different parts of the moon illuminated at different times in the month.

This activity is one that you can try at home to illustrate the Phases of the Moon. It is fun and simple to do. Challenge your parents and friends to put the plates in the right order once you have created the 8 phases. Write the name of each phase on the back of the plate to remind yourself of the correct order.

Materials

- 8 white paper dessert plates or white construction paper cut into 8 identical disks
- black crayon

On each of the 8 paper plates representing the face of the Moon, darken in the appropriate surface of the plates so that the white part represents the illuminated face of the Moon for the following phases:

1. **New Moon:** the moon is not visible from Earth because its unilluminated side is facing us. The only time we are able to see a New Moon is during a solar eclipse.
2. **Waxing Crescent:** only a fraction of the Moon is illuminated by the Sun, but it is increasing.
3. **First Quarter:** one half of the Moon's face is illuminated and is increasing.
4. **Waxing Gibbous:** more than one-half, but not the entire disk is illuminated. The amount of illuminated surface is increasing.
5. **Full Moon:** the moon appears to be fully illuminated because the lit side is facing the Earth.
6. **Waning Gibbous:** more than half, but not the entire disk appears illuminated. The amount of illuminated surface is decreasing.
7. **Last Quarter:** one half of the Moon appears illuminated, but that is decreasing.
8. **Waning Crescent:** the Moon appears to be partly but less than half illuminated and is decreasing. As less of the Moon seems to be lit, it moves to the New Moon phase once again.

