

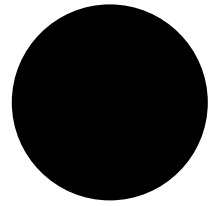
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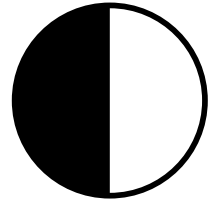
MOON PHASES

Imagine the moon as a big, reflective ball in the sky that travels around the Earth. As it moves, different parts of it light up and become visible to us. We call these different shapes of the moon "phases." There are four main phases that we often talk about:

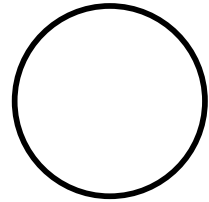
New Moon: This is when the moon is completely dark, and we can't see it at all because the side that's facing us is not lit up by the sun.



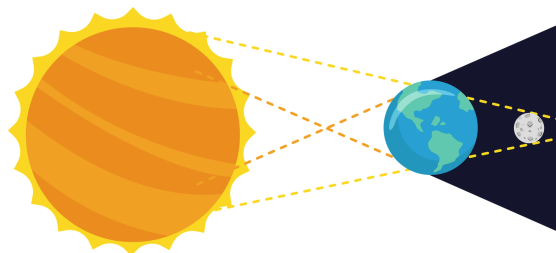
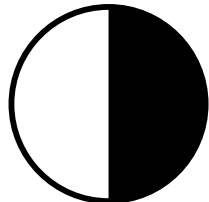
First Quarter: About a week after the new moon, we see half of the moon's face lit up on the right side. It looks like a half-circle in the sky.



Full Moon: About two weeks after the new moon, the entire face of the moon is lit up, and it looks like a big circle in the sky.



Last Quarter: About three weeks after the new moon, we see half of the moon's face lit up on the left side. Again, it looks like a half-circle in the sky, but this time the left side is lit.

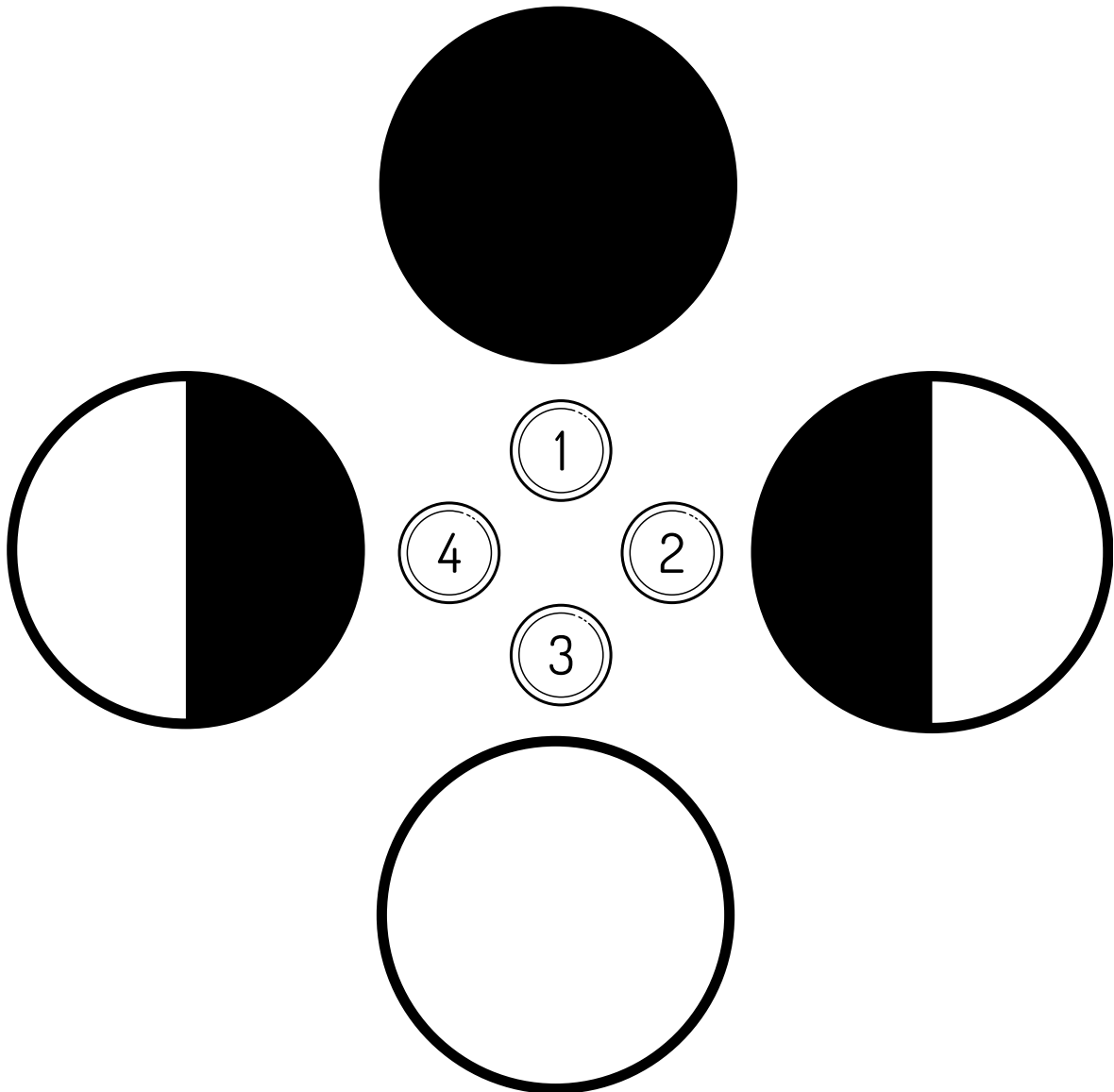


Name: _____

Date: _____

LABEL THE MOON PHASES

Using your knowledge so far, label the four moon phases below.



- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

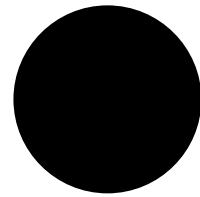
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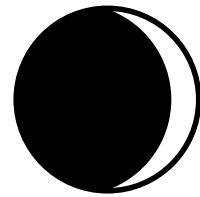
MOON PHASES

Imagine the moon as a big, reflective ball in the sky that travels around the Earth. As it moves, different parts of it light up and become visible to us. We call these different shapes of the moon "phases." There are eight phases that we often talk about:

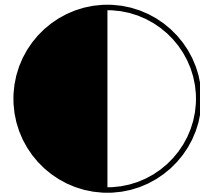
New Moon: During this phase, the moon is not visible at all because the side of the moon facing Earth is not lit up by the sun. It marks the beginning of the lunar cycle.



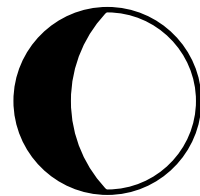
Waxing Crescent: After the new moon, a small sliver of the moon becomes visible, which appears to be growing larger each night. This phase is called the waxing crescent.



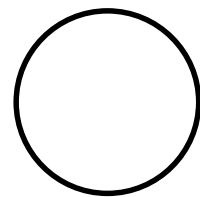
First Quarter: About a week after the new moon, half of the moon's face is lit up. This phase is called the first quarter because it marks the halfway point between the new moon and the full moon.



Waxing Gibbous: Following the first quarter, more than half of the moon's face becomes visible, but it's not yet fully illuminated like during the full moon. This phase is called the waxing gibbous.



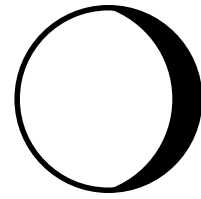
Full Moon: Approximately two weeks after the new moon, the entire face of the moon is illuminated and visible from Earth, making it appear as a full circle in the sky.



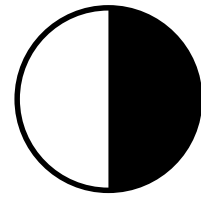
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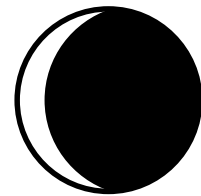
Waning Gibbous: After the full moon, the illuminated portion of the moon gradually decreases, creating a shape that's still more than half but less than fully illuminated. This phase is called the waning gibbous.



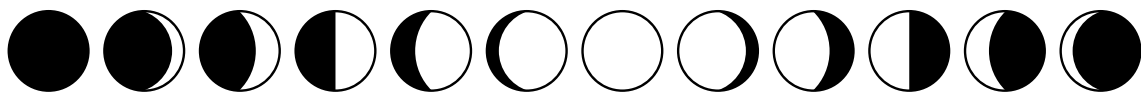
Last Quarter: About three weeks after the new moon, half of the moon's face is illuminated, but this time it's the left side that's lit. This phase is called the last quarter because it's the last quarter of the lunar cycle.



Waning Crescent: Following the last quarter, only a small sliver of the moon is illuminated, and it appears to be shrinking each night. This phase is called the waning crescent, leading back to the new moon to start the cycle again.



These phases happen because of how the moon moves around the Earth and how the sunlight hits it from different angles. So, every night when you look up at the moon, you might see it in a different shape, and that's because it's going through its different phases!



TIP: Remembering the difference between waxing and waning can be easy if you think about the letters **X** and **N** in their names.

"Waxing" includes an **X** and you can remember that it is gaining "e**X**tra" light.

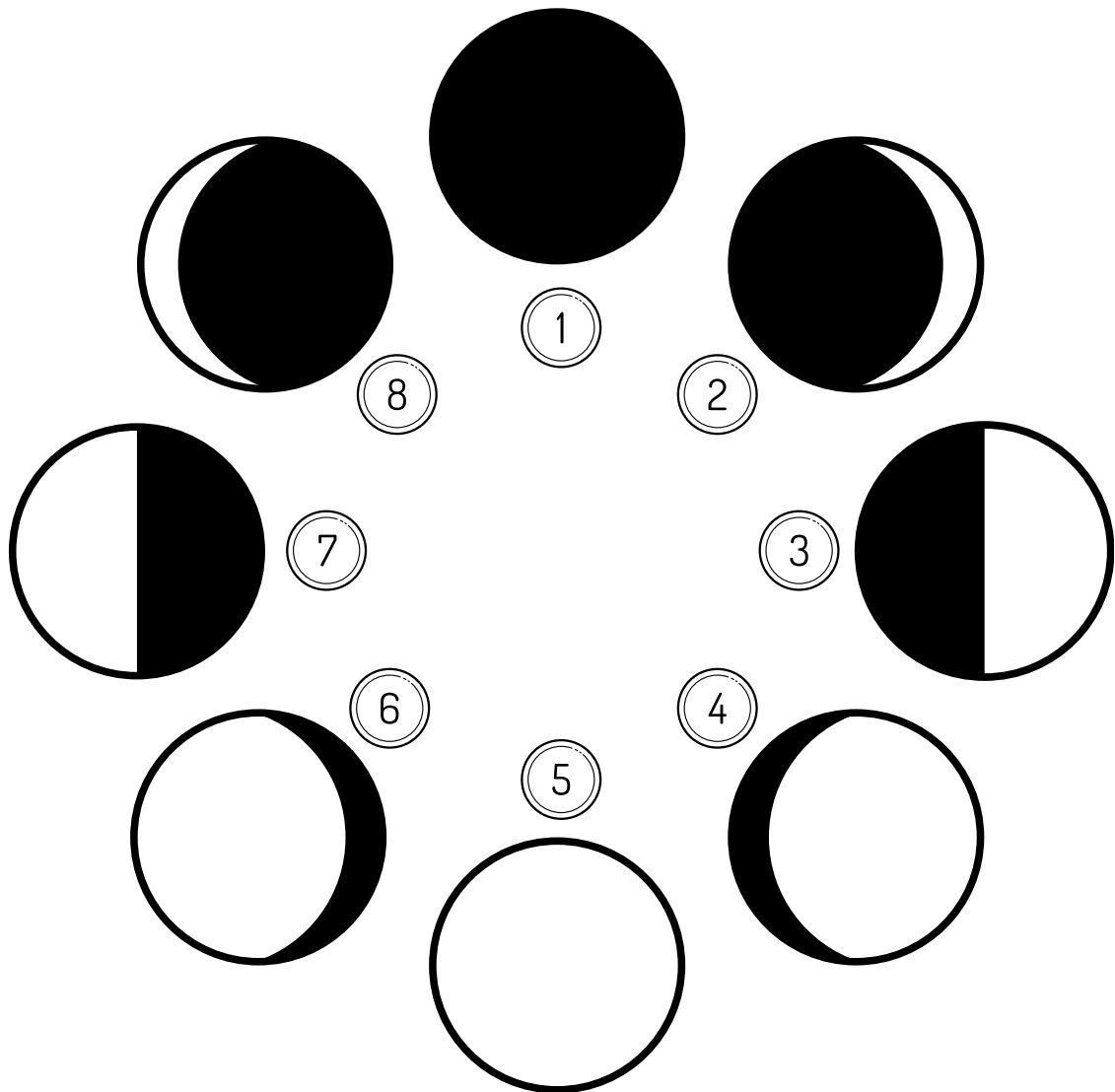
"Waning" includes an **N** just like "**N**arrowing" or losing light.

Name: _____

Date: _____

LABEL THE MOON PHASES

Using your knowledge so far, label the eight moon phases below.



1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

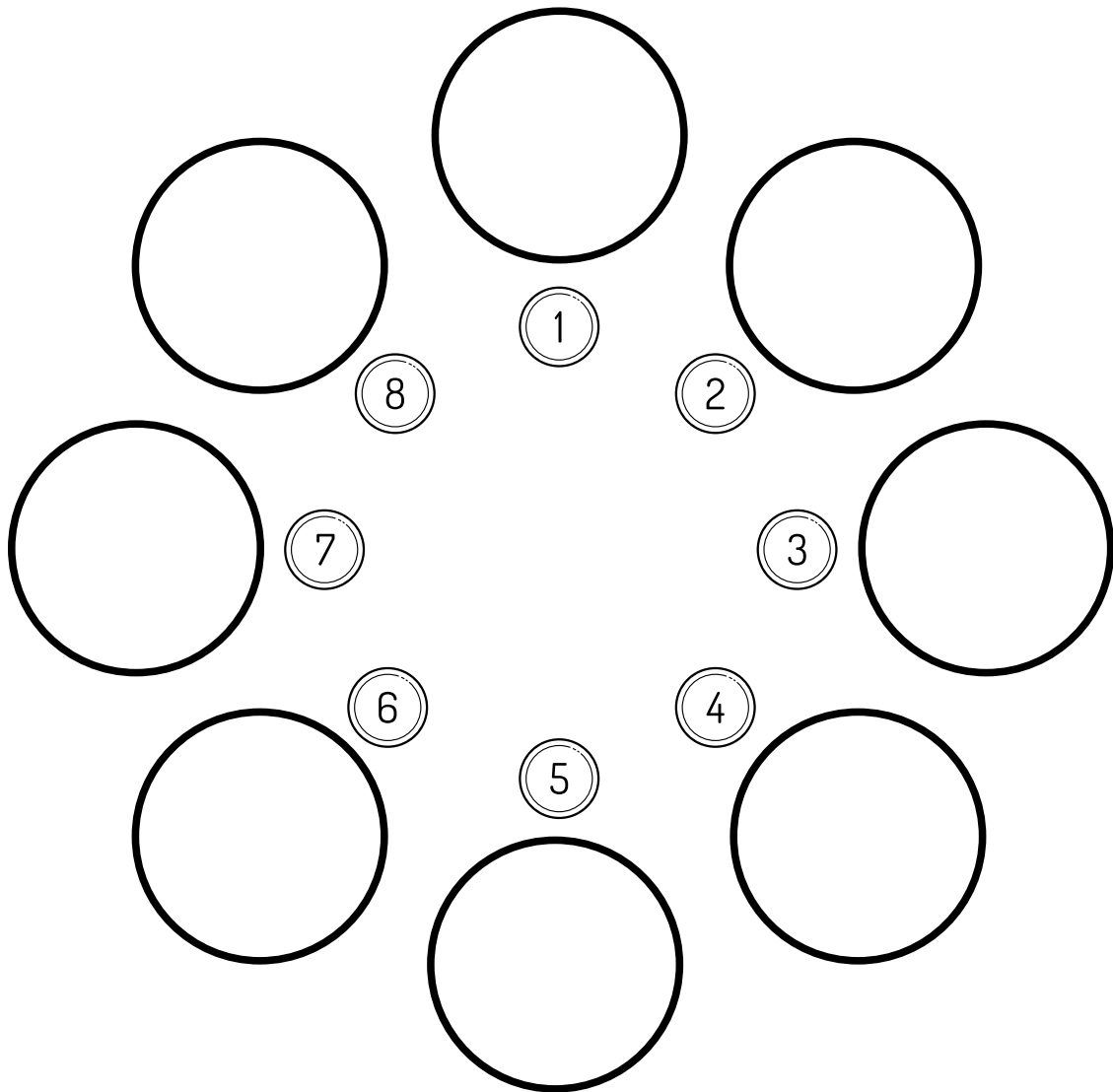
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____
8 _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

LABEL THE MOON PHASES

Using your knowledge so far, draw or shade and label the eight moon phases below.



- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____