



WHY DOES THE MOON CHANGE SHAPE?

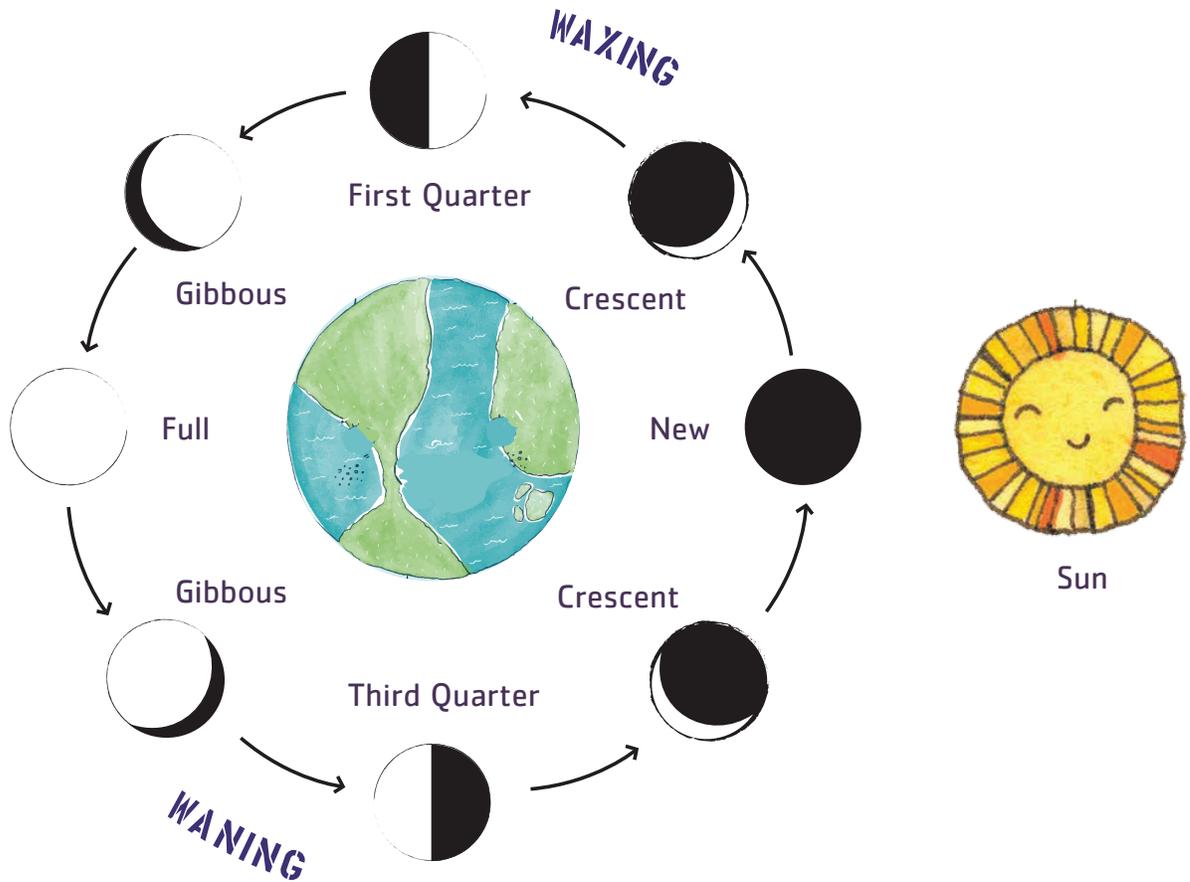


Or does it?

The moon does not change, but we can't always see all of it. Since the moon does not make its own light, we can only see it when it reflects the sun's light. The amount of the moon we can see depends upon its position compared to the sun and the earth. The moon is always in motion as it orbits around the earth while the earth is always in motion orbiting the sun.

When the part of the moon we can see is growing larger each night, we say that it is *waxing*. When the moon is completely visible, it is a full moon. After that, we see less of the moon each night. That is called *waning*.

A crescent moon is just a sliver of the moon and a gibbous moon is almost completely full.



Keep a journal of the moon for one month. Draw the shape of the moon as you see it. How does it change? Why does it change?

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

