



Satelloids

Lunar Phase Project

Advisor's Notes

Purpose: The goal of the Lunar Phases project is to show students the Moon's orbit around the Earth and the effect it has on its' phases. Send the Parent's Notes home with students to help explain the project to student's parents.

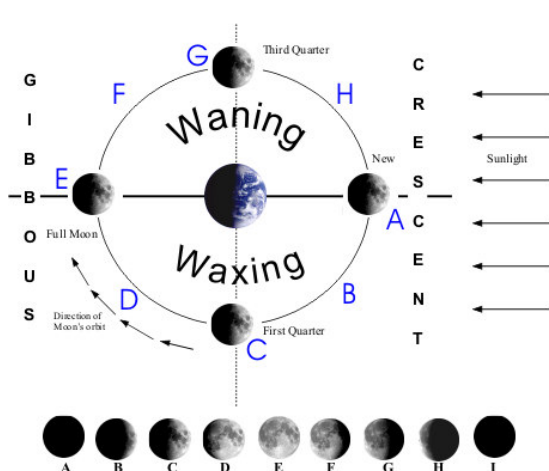
Directions: Using the form provided students should go outside and observe the Moon and its' phase at least six times during the two weeks from any New to Full Moon. To observe the shift in the sky caused by the Moon's orbiting of the Earth it is imperative that they view it at roughly the same time of night, for example all observations are done at 7:30pm. By observing at the same time, the Earth's rotation is removed. The farther it is observed from that set time the more the Moon's position is skewed by the Earth.

Form Use: The drawing window at the top of the form shows the southern landscape with (E)ast on the left and (W)est on the right. Students should look in the west for the young crescent Moon visible low in the sky after sunset following New Moon. This would be drawn in the lower right corner of the drawing window. Students should jot down near their drawing the date, time, and sky conditions, for example: "3/01/06, 7:02pm, Fair". Once they have completed all the observations, they should describe their results in the space provided.

Things to look for: Make sure students fully fill out the form and describe and date their observation. Encourage them to draw in the details, i.e. the seas, of the Moon and not just the phases. If they really want to go all out they can draw in the brighter stars in the southern sky. Ask them if they understand what they were seeing.

Advisor's Comments: Before sending the form to Satelloid Headquarters please write a comment in the provided box. Start with a praise of some type and include any suggestions to the student for improvement.

Chief Astronomer Comments: The Chief Astronomer will review each submitted form and like-wise write a note of encouragement and offer suggestions for improvement, if needed.



Completed Form: If the project is properly completed the Chief Astronomer will sign and date the form. The form and certificate of completion will be included in the next package to you.

This image shows a view of the Moon's orbit around the Earth and its' effect on the phases. A) New Moon. B) Waxing Crescent. C) First Quarter. D) Waxing Gibbous. E) Full Moon. F) Waning Gibbous. G) Last Quarter. H) Waning Crescent.