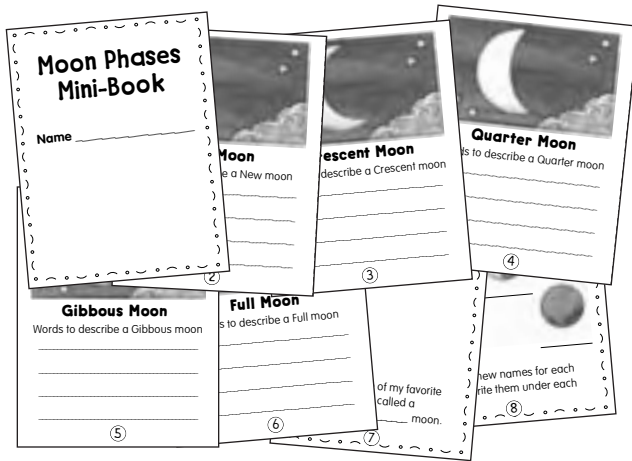




## Teaching the Lesson



- 1 Give each child a copy of the Moon Phases mini-book pages. (Don't put the books together yet.)
- 2 Read pages 2 through 6 of the book together. Ask: *Do any of the moon phases you see look familiar?*
- 3 Have children use yellow crayons to color in the visible portion of each moon phase—the side we can see because it reflects the sun's light—and to use black crayons to color in the part of the moon that appears dark.
- 4 To create sparkling night sky pictures, have children lightly brush each page with water, then sprinkle salt on the paper while still wet.
- 5 When the pages are dry, have children sequence them, then staple together to bind.
- 6 Let children complete the last two pages in the book, drawing a picture of their favorite moon and labeling it on page 7, then making up new names for each moon on page 8. To go further, introduce some of the names Native Americans had for the moon each month. For example, September is a "Harvest Moon," December is a "Cold Moon," and May is a "Flower Moon." A good source for this is *Twelve Moons of the Year* by Hal Borland (G.K. Hall, 1985), a collection of nature essays.

### ACTIVITY Extension

Give children copies of the Moon Calendar (see page 36) and invite them to draw the shape of the moon they see each night throughout the month. If bedtimes or other constraints limit their observations, they can find pictures of the phases in the weather section of the newspaper. If you have Internet access, students may also check the following web sites for information about the phases of the moon:

*The U.S. Naval Observatory's Astronomical Applications Department* ([aa.usno.navy.mil/AA/faq/docs/moon\\_phases.html](http://aa.usno.navy.mil/AA/faq/docs/moon_phases.html)): This site features pictures of each phase of the moon.

*Virtual Reality Moon Phase Pictures* ([tycho.usno.navy.mil/vphase.html](http://tycho.usno.navy.mil/vphase.html)): This amazing site allows students to type in a month and year of their choice to see the phase of the moon for each day of that month. Students will have fun inputting the month and year they were born to see what the moon looked like in their first days.

### Literature Connection

Read *The Moon Seems to Change* by Franklyn M. Branley (HarperCollins, 1987). This book uses simple text with colorful diagrams to illustrate the phases of the moon.

**TIP:** Why does the moon seem to change shape? The answer to this question involves concepts that are too difficult for young children to grasp. For this reason, activities that model the sun reflecting light on the moon may be inappropriate. Sharing books such as *The Moon Seems to Change* and allowing children to experiment with simple models, such as the one described in the book, will help lay a foundation for future understanding.

# Moon Phases Mini-Book

## Moon Phases Mini-Book

Name \_\_\_\_\_



### New Moon

Words to describe a New moon

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②



### Crescent Moon

Words to describe a Crescent moon

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③



### Quarter Moon

Words to describe a Quarter moon

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④



# \_\_\_\_\_ 's Moon Calendar

For the Month of \_\_\_\_\_

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY



**New**



**Crescent**



**Quarter**



**Gibbous**



**Full**