



Lunar Phases

A Moon Month

Classroom Activity

Material List:

- Activity 1 sheet
- Lunar Phase diagram
- Scissors
- 8 balls (polystyrene or ping-pong balls)
- 8 sticks/dowels
- Blue tack or tape
- Black paint, tape or marker pens

Outline

The moon is Earth's natural satellite and a key element of our night sky, starting with an overview of the moon this lesson will help you to understand more about it.

In this activity you will learn the phases of the moon cycle and their names. Then complete an investigation to discover why the moon appears to us the way it does, (in crescents or full, etc.).

Procedure:

1

Cut out the Lunar phase images and their descriptions

2

Starting with the 'new moon' image try and place the moon images into the correct order to match with a Luna Month.

3

Compare your answers with the model answers and rearrange your set into the right order, before gluing or copying them into your book.

Online Observatory: onlineobservatory.eu

The online observatory collaboration consists of the following partners:

Baldone Observatory, Brorfelde Observatory, Cardiff University, Harestua Solar Observatory, Helsinki Observatory

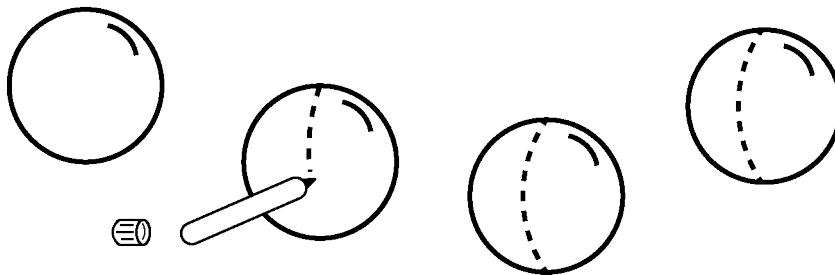


Assessment:

- What made you put the images in these positions/this order?

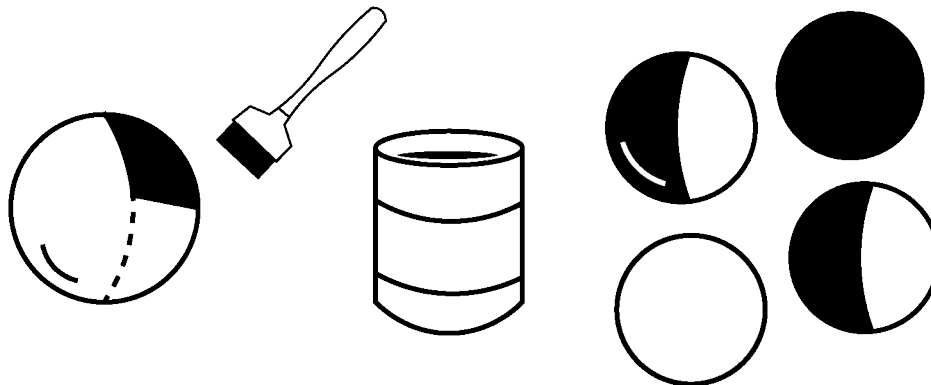
4

Mark off a line around the halfway mark of each of the eight balls.



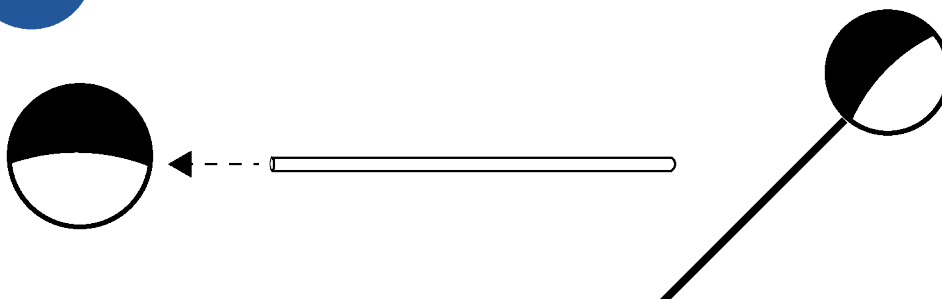
5

Paint one half of the balls in black and either leave the other half or paint it white, these represent the moon.



6

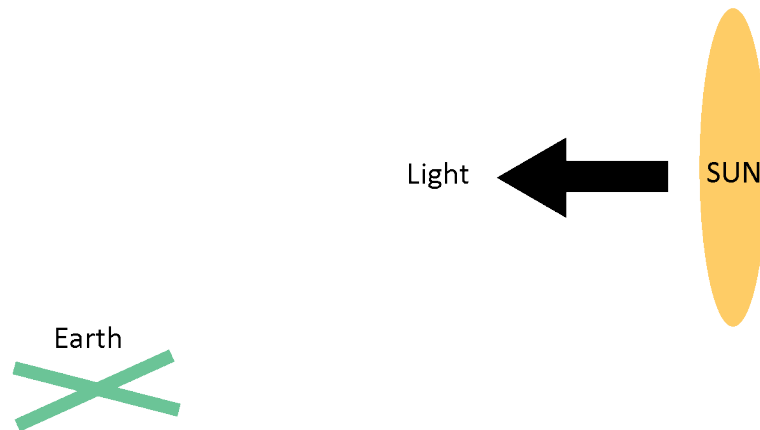
Carefully push the sticks/dowels into the balls, leaving an equal amount for the balls to stand on.





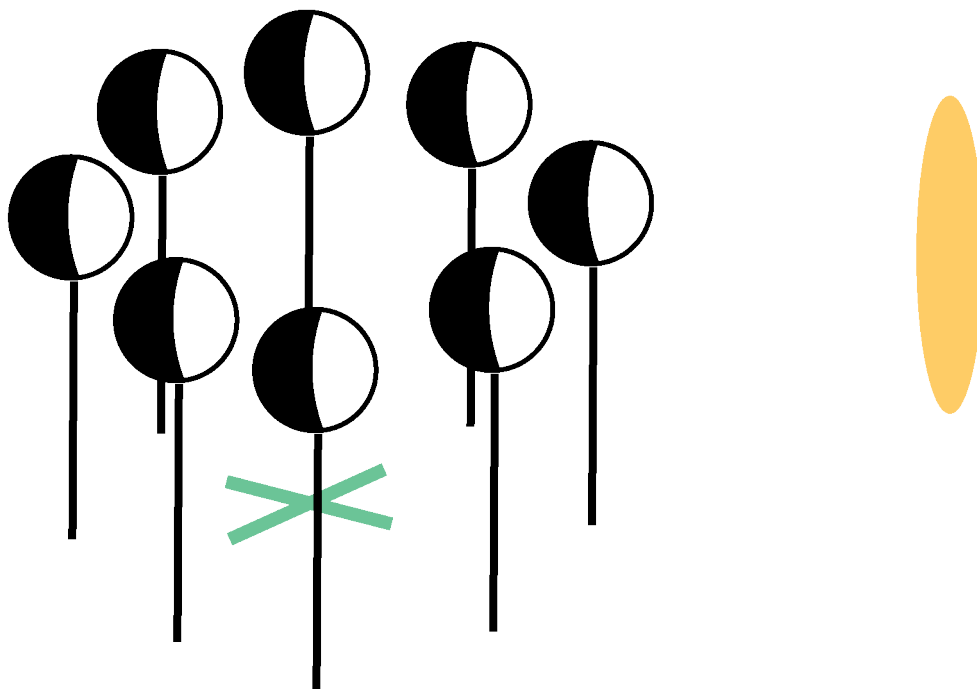
7

Decide where you are placing your 'Sun' and where the 'Earth' will be, for this activity you will be acting as the Earth so you need to decide where to stand.



8

Using either the tape or blue tack stand your 'moons' up around the spot you have chosen for Earth, make sure you leave enough space for you to stand and that the 'lit' (white) parts of the moon are all facing towards the 'Sun'.



9

Stand in the centre of the moons and look straight towards the 'Sun', the moon you can see should represent a new moon. Describe what you see.



10

Slowly turn in an anti-clockwise rotation, looking at each of the moons in turn, for each one describe what you can see, how much is in the dark and how much is lit by the Sun?

Assessment:

