Hidden Message Scavenger Hunt: Moon Phases

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*Please Note: This activity uses the moon phases visible in the Northern Hemisphere.
Directions

Prep: 1. Print a master (color is best) copy of the student pages and fact cards. If card stock is available for fact cards, this is recommended.
2. Laminate and cut the fact cards for durability.
3. Make student copies of the hidden message page and scavenger hunt worksheet.
4. Place the fact cards in various locations for students to find. Difficulty level will not affect the activity.

Student directions: Search for the fact cards to fill in the blanks on your Scavenger Hunt page. While filling in the blanks on the Scavenger Hunt, record the hidden message letter (found on each fact card) onto the "Did you know?" page. Be sure to match the correct Fact Cards and letters. The hidden message awaits! Good luck!

*Teacher tip: This activity can be used in many different ways, but it is recommended as an introductory activity to spark student interest.
The fact cards in the scavenger hunt have the missing letters that belong below in the hidden words. Fill in the missing letters to discover the completed message!

**Did you know?**

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9 4 16 12 7 5 13 11 2 6 15 3

---

have stepped onto the surface of the

10 14 8 1

---

Thought to ponder:

How much would I weigh on the moon?

---

The Moon has much less mass than the Earth so it has much weaker gravity. Gravity is the force that pulls things together. On the Moon, you would weigh about 1/6 of your weight on Earth. Divide your weight by 6 to see what you would weigh on the Moon.
ANSWER KEY

Did you know?

TWELVE PEOPLE have stepped onto the surface of the MOON.

Thought to ponder:
How much would I weigh on the moon?

The Moon has much less mass than the Earth so it has much weaker gravity. Gravity is the force that pulls things together.

On the Moon, you would weigh about 1/6 of your weight on Earth. Divide your weight by 6 to see what you would weigh on the Moon.
Moon Phases Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Find the Fact Cards (in any order) and fill in the missing words. Be sure to fill in the hidden letters on the “Did you know?” page.

1. The Moon is a mostly ___________ rocky object that travels around (orbits) the Earth.

2. The distance between the Moon and the Earth is ______________________ miles (384,400 km). The same side of the Moon ___________ ___________ the Earth.

3. United States astronaut, ___________ ________________________, became the first man to ___________ on the Moon in 1969.

4. When the Moon ___________ the Earth, it looks like it is ______________________ in the sky. From Earth, it looks like the Moon is growing and shrinking as it moves through its phases.

5. On Earth, we see different Moon phases depending on how much ________________ is being __________________ off of the Moon.

6. When more of the Moon becomes visible, we say that it is " ________________." When less of the Moon is visible, we say that it is " ________________.”

7. The phases of the Moon are: __________ Moon, Waxing Crescent, First Quarter (Waxing Quarter), Waxing Gibbous, ____________ Moon, Waning Gibbous, Last Quarter (Waning Quarter), and Waning Crescent.

8. It takes the Moon about ___________ days to complete all of the phases before it starts over again.

9. ____________ ____________- The Moon is not visible. No sunlight is being reflected.

10. ____________ _________________ - Only a small part of the Moon’s round shape is visible. It is beginning to look larger.

11. ____________ _________________ (Waxing Quarter)- One-half of the Moon’s round shape is visible. It will continue to look larger until it is a Full Moon.

12. ____________ _________________ - The Moon’s round shape is mostly visible. It will soon be a Full Moon.

13. ____________ _________________ - The Moon’s full round shape is visible.

14. ____________ _________________ - Most of the Moon’s round shape is visible, but it is beginning to get smaller (less light reflected).

15. ____________ _________________ (Waning Quarter) - Half of the Moon’s round shape is visible (opposite of First Quarter). It will continue to reflect less light and look smaller.

16. ____________ _________________ - Only a small part of the Moon’s round shape is visible. Soon, no sunlight will be reflected and the phases will start over again.
Moon Phases Scavenger Hunt - Page 1

Directions: Find the Fact Cards (in any order) and fill in the missing words. Be sure to fill in the hidden letters on the “Did you know?” page.

1. The Moon is a mostly _______________, rocky object that travels around (orbits) the Earth.

2. The distance between the Moon and the Earth is _______________ miles (384,400 km). The same side of the Moon _______________ _______________ the Earth.

3. United States astronaut, _______________ _______________, became the first man to _______________ on the Moon in 1969.

4. When the Moon _______________ the Earth, it looks like it is _______________ _______________ in the sky. From Earth, it looks like the Moon is growing and shrinking as it moves through its phases.

5. On Earth, we see different Moon phases depending on how much _______________ is being _______________ off of the Moon.

6. When more of the Moon becomes visible, we say that it is “_______________.” When less of the Moon is visible, we say that it is “_______________.”

7. The phases of the Moon are: _______________ Moon, Waxing Crescent, First Quarter (Waxing Quarter), Waxing Gibbous, _______________ Moon, Waning Gibbous, Last Quarter (Waning Quarter), and Waning Crescent.

8. It takes the Moon about _______________ days to complete all of the phases before it starts over again.
9. ___________ _____________ - The Moon is not visible. No sunlight is being reflected.

10. _______________ ______________ - Only a small part of the Moon’s round shape is visible. It is beginning to look larger.

11. _______________ _______________ (Waxing Quarter) - One-half of the Moon’s round shape is visible. It will continue to look larger until it is a Full Moon.

12. _______________ _______________ - The Moon’s round shape is mostly visible. It will soon be a Full Moon.

13. ___________ _____________ - The Moon’s full round shape is visible.

14. _______________ _______________ - Most of the Moon’s round shape is visible, but it is beginning to get smaller (less light reflected).

15. _______________ _______________ (Waning Quarter) - Half of the Moon’s round shape is visible (opposite of First Quarter). It will continue to reflect less light and look smaller.

16. _______________ _______________ - Only a small part of the Moon’s round shape is visible. Soon, no sunlight will be reflected and the phases will start over again.
Moon Phases Scavenger Hunt

ANSWER KEY

1. The Moon is a mostly **round**, rocky object that travels around (orbits) the Earth.
2. The distance between the Moon and the Earth is **238,900 miles** (384,400 km). The same side of the Moon **always faces** the Earth.
3. United States astronaut, **Neil Armstrong**, became the first man to **walk** on the Moon in 1969.
4. When the Moon **orbits** the Earth, it looks like it is **changing shape** in the sky. From Earth, it looks like the Moon is growing and shrinking as it moves through its phases.
5. On Earth, we see different Moon phases depending on how much **sunlight** is being **reflected** off of the Moon.
6. When more of the Moon becomes visible, we say that it is **“waxing.”**. When less of the Moon is visible, we say that it is **“waning.”**
7. The phases of the Moon are: **New** Moon, Waxing Crescent, First Quarter (Waxing Quarter), Waxing Gibbous, **Full** Moon, Waning Gibbous, Last Quarter (Waning Quarter), and Waning Crescent.
8. It takes the Moon about **29.5 days** to complete all of the phases before it starts over again.
9. **New Moon** - The Moon is not visible. No sunlight is being reflected.
10. **Waxing Crescent** – Only a small part of the Moon’s round shape is visible. It is beginning to look larger.
11. **First Quarter** (Waxing Quarter) - One-half of the Moon’s round shape is visible. It will continue to look larger until it is a Full Moon.
12. **Waxing Gibbous** – The Moon’s round shape is mostly visible. It will soon be a Full Moon.
13. **Full Moon** - The Moon’s full round shape is visible.
14. **Waning Gibbous** – Most of the Moon’s round shape is visible, but it is beginning to get smaller (less light reflected).
15. **Last Quarter** (Waning Quarter) – Half of the Moon’s round shape is visible (opposite of First Quarter). It will continue to reflect less light and look smaller.
16. **Waning Crescent** – Only a small part of the Moon’s round shape is visible. Soon, no sunlight will be reflected and the phases will start over again.
1. The Moon is a mostly round, rocky object that travels around (orbits) the Earth.

Hidden message letter: N

2. The distance between the Moon and the Earth is 238,900 miles (384,400 km). The same side of the Moon always faces the Earth.

Hidden message letter: O


Hidden message letter: E

4. When the Moon orbits the Earth, it looks like it is changing shape in the sky. From Earth, it looks like the Moon is growing and shrinking as it moves through its phases.

Hidden message letter: W
5. On Earth, we see different Moon phases depending on how much sunlight is being reflected off of the Moon.

6. When more of the Moon becomes visible, we say that it is “waxing.” When less of the Moon is visible, we say that it is “waning.”

7. The phases of the Moon are: New Moon, Waxing Crescent, First Quarter (Waxing Quarter), Waxing Gibbous, Full Moon, Waning Gibbous, Last Quarter (Waning Quarter), and Waning Crescent.

8. It takes the Moon about 29.5 days to complete all of the phases before it starts over again.

Hidden message letter: E

Hidden message letter: P

Hidden message letter: V

Hidden message letter: O
New Moon - The Moon is not visible. No sunlight is being reflected.

Hidden message letter: T

Waxing Crescent - Only a small part of the Moon’s round shape is visible. It is beginning to look larger.

Hidden message letter: M

First Quarter (Waxing Quarter) - One-half of the Moon’s round shape is visible. It will continue to look larger until it is a Full Moon.

Hidden message letter: E

Waxing Gibbous - The Moon’s round shape is mostly visible. It will soon be a Full Moon.

Hidden message letter: L
13 Full Moon - The Moon’s full round shape is visible.

Hidden message letter: P

14 Waning Gibbous - Most of the Moon’s round shape is visible, but it is beginning to get smaller (less light reflected).

Hidden message letter: O

15 Last Quarter (Waning Quarter) - Half of the Moon’s round shape is visible (opposite of First Quarter). It will continue to reflect less light and look smaller.

Hidden message letter: L

16 Waning Crescent - Only a small part of the Moon’s round shape is visible. Soon, no sunlight will be reflected and the phases will start over again.

Hidden message letter: E
If you like this scavenger hunt, I have many more!

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