U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

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Moon Journal

The Moon is the most visible object in the night sky. Sometimes, you can even see it during the day! Keep a Moon Journal for 30 days to see the patterns in the Moon's cycle.

Directions

- 1. Review the Moon Phases diagram on page 2.
- 2. Print out the Moon Observation Sheet on page 3 or copy it onto your own paper. Make additional copies of this sheet as you continue your observations.
- 3. Go out and observe the Moon every day for 30 days. (Note: The Moon may be out during the day or night depending on what phase it is in).
- 4. Each time you go out, record the date and time, then draw what the Moon looks like on the sheet. Record the name of the Moon phase and any other observations you make.
- 5. Write a note in your journal if it is too cloudy or you miss a day.

Tip: Use binoculars or a telescope to

look at the Moon. What do you notice?

Materials

- Pen or pencil
- Moon Observation Sheet

Questions

- What patterns do you notice in the Moon's cycle?
- What other bright objects do you observe in the night sky?

Example:



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Moon Phases



Gibbous: more than half of the Moon is illuminated. New Moon: no visible illumination.

Full Moon: the entire disc of the Moon is illuminated.

Quarter: half of the disc of the Moon is illuminated. Crescent: less than half of the Moon is illuminated. Waxing: the area of illumination is growing/expanding. Waning: the area of illumination is shrinking/decreasing.



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Moon Observation Sheet







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