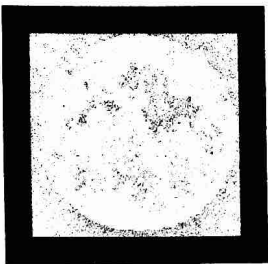
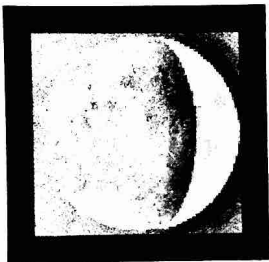


Moon Phases – Reading Notes

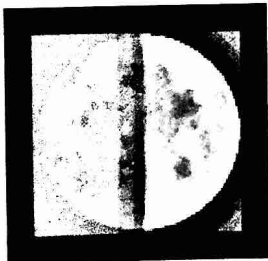
The Moon appears to rise in the east and set in the west because of the Earth's rotation. Every day, it rises an average of 50 minutes later than the day before and sets about 50 minutes later. The cycle of the phases of the Moon is repeated every 29 1/2 days.



NEW MOON: When we see the New Moon, the lighted side of the Moon faces away from the Earth. The Moon is between the Earth and Sun and appears in the same area of the sky where the Sun is. Generally, it rises when the Sun rises, and sets when the Sun sets. We don't see the Moon because the sunlight falls on the side of the Moon which is turned away from us.



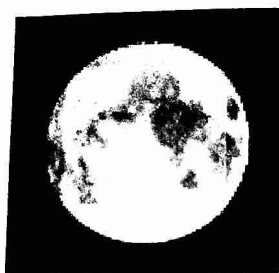
WAXING CRESCENT: When we see the Waxing Crescent, a small part of the Moon appears lighted and it appears to be getting larger each day. After the New Moon, the Moon rises approximately 50 minutes after the Sun rises. The Waxing Crescent Moon is a narrow crescent, lit on the right side. It is in the sky the rest of the day following the Sun at not too great a distance. The Waxing Crescent sets about 50 minutes later than the sun in the evening.



FIRST QUARTER: When we see the First Quarter, the right half of the Moon appears lighted, with the lighted part growing larger on the following days. The First Quarter Moon is 7 or 8 days after the New Moon. Although it appears to be a half moon lit on the right side, it is called the First Quarter Moon. It rises about 6 hours later than the Sun, around noon. The First Quarter Moon shines half by day and half by night.



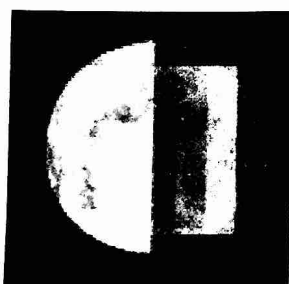
WAXING GIBBOUS: Gibbous means hump. When we see the Waxing Gibbous Moon, more than half of the Moon appears lighted, with more and more becoming lighted on the following days. The Waxing Gibbous Moon rises in the afternoon, and shines into the small hours of the morning. When more than half of the Moon is lit on the right side, it is a Waxing Gibbous Moon.



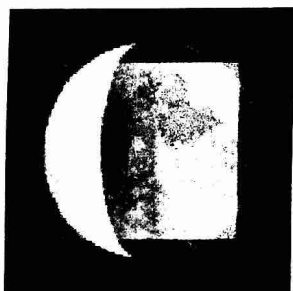
FULL MOON: Two weeks after the New Moon, the Full Moon appears. When we see the Full Moon, the lighted side of the Moon faces toward Earth. It is opposite the Sun in the sky and rises almost at sunset and sets about sunrise.



WANING GIBBOUS: When we see the Waning Gibbous Moon, more than half of the Moon appears lighted, with less and less becoming lighted on the following days. When the Moon is waning, it appears to be getting smaller. When more than half of the Moon is lit on the left side, it is a Waning Gibbous Moon. The Waning Gibbous Moon comes up about 50 minutes after sunset.



THIRD OR LAST QUARTER: When we see the Third or Last Quarter, the left half of the Moon appears lighted, with the lighted part growing smaller on the following days. The Third or Last Quarter Moon looks like a half-moon lit on the left side. It rises about 6 hours before the Sun rises, rising in the middle of the night and setting around noon.



WANING CRESCENT: When you see the Waning Crescent Moon, a small part of the lighted Moon is visible and grows smaller on the following days. The Waning Crescent Moon rises about 50 minutes later each night, and becomes a narrow crescent lit on the left side. It rises during the early morning hours and sets in the afternoon. It follows the Sun ever more closely, until after 29 1/2 days, we have the New Moon again and the whole cycle starts over again.