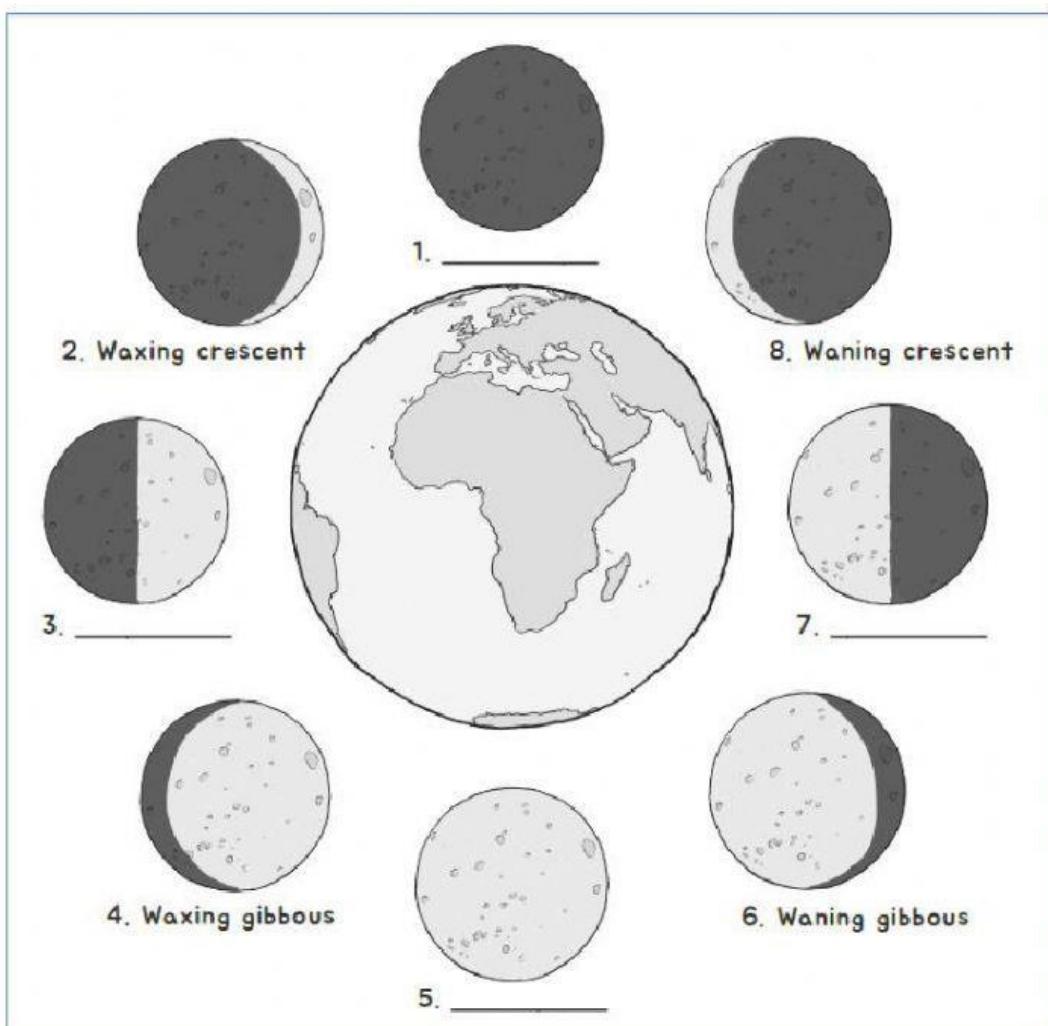


The Moon: A Natural Satellite

The Moon is not a planet, but a natural satellite that circles the Earth. The Moon reflects light from the sun, like a mirror. As the Moon orbits Earth, sunlight hits different areas of the Moon, making it visible. These changes are called **phases**.

At the **New Moon** phase, the Moon is very hard to see because it's between the Earth and the sun, and it is not lit up. The Moon becomes visible during the **Waxing Crescent** phase, but we can only see a small piece of it. During the **First Quarter** moon, you can see half of the moon. The Moon looks like it is almost full in the **Waxing Gibbous** phase. When there's a **Full Moon**, it is fully facing the sun causing it to appear fully lit up. Then, the **Waning Gibbous** phase is when the moon begins shrinking and we can see all but a small sliver. In the **Last Quarter**, you can see half of the moon again. The last phase before a **New Moon** is the **Waning Crescent** phase, which is when the Moon appears as a small crescent shape again.

A) Label each phase of the moon below using the information from above.



B) Choose one option to answer the questions about lunar eclipses.



1) What is a lunar eclipse?

When the Moon passes in front of the Sun

When the Earth casts a shadow on the Moon

When the Sun is blocked by another planet

2) What color will the Moon sometimes appear during a lunar eclipse?

Yellow

Red

Purple

3) When does a lunar eclipse happen?

During new moon

During a first quarter moon

During a full moon

4) How long can a lunar eclipse last?

for a few hours

for a few days

for a few minutes

