

Name:

Date:

Phases of the Moon (mata o te marama)

The Sun lights the half of the moon facing it. The moon completes a full orbit of Earth every 27.3 days, meaning the angle of the illuminated (lit) side of the moon from Earth is different each day. These different angles are the “**Moon phases**”.

- The new moon is when we are seeing the unlit side of the moon. A full moon is when we can see the entire lit side of the moon.
- “Waxing” is when the lit part of the moon **increases** in size, and “waning” is when the lit part of the moon **decreases** in size.
- A “crescent” moon is when **less than half** of the moon appears illuminated from Earth, and a “gibbous” moon is when **more than half** of the moon appears illuminated.

Drag and drop the moon phase to the correct position on the diagram.

New moon

Full moon

Waning gibbous

Waning crescent

First quarter

Last quarter

Waxing gibbous

Waxing crescent

The inner smaller parts of the diagram show how area of the Moon that is illuminated by the Sun. The outer larger parts of the diagram show what the Moon looks like from Earth.

