

Moon Phase Relay

Purpose : Students will identify phases of the moon and the order which they occur.

Grade level suggested 3-5

Equipment: Pre-laminated phases of the moon (print attached phases of the moon)

Science SOL: Earth Patterns Cycles and Change 3.8 4.8

Organization

1. Print and cut out the phases of the moon that you would like the kids to know, as well as other things that may go with the phases (neap tide, spring tide)
2. Make as many copies as you need teams.
3. Set up cones in relay format – cones at one end with a cone across from it with the phases cut out

Description/Directions

1. Students will, one at a time, run, skip jump, etc... to their opposing cone, pick up one phase of the moon and bring it back.
2. The next student does the same.
3. When all of the phases have been brought back, the students must line up the phases in the correct order.
4. The winning team is the team that gets the phases in the correct order first, not necessarily the team that finishes first.

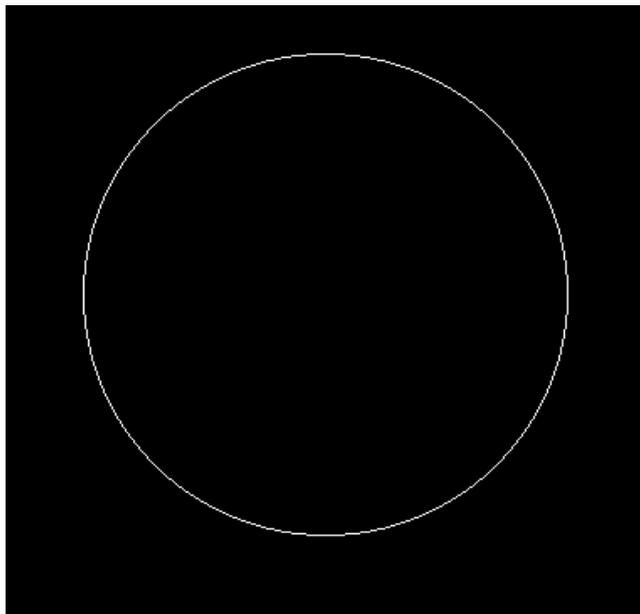
Teaching suggestions

1. Make sure the students know which cone they are going to. Do the activity twice so that reinforcement occurs. Teams who did not get it correct the first time will more than likely get it correct the second time.
2. Remind students to only pick up one piece of paper at a time.

Modifications/added activities

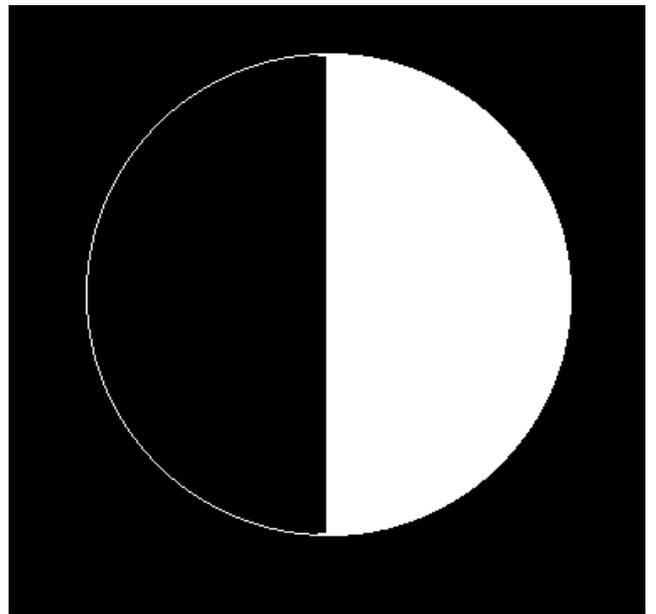
1. Have both the phases and the names of the phases versus just pictures so that students have to match the names of the phases with the pictures.
2. Have the words “spring tide” and “neap tide” with the phases of the moon and have them match the tides with the phases.
3. Include pictures of the sun and the earth
4. After the first round is over, have students take the pictures back to the cone one at a time – relay race- before playing a second time – they get more activity this way.

New Moon



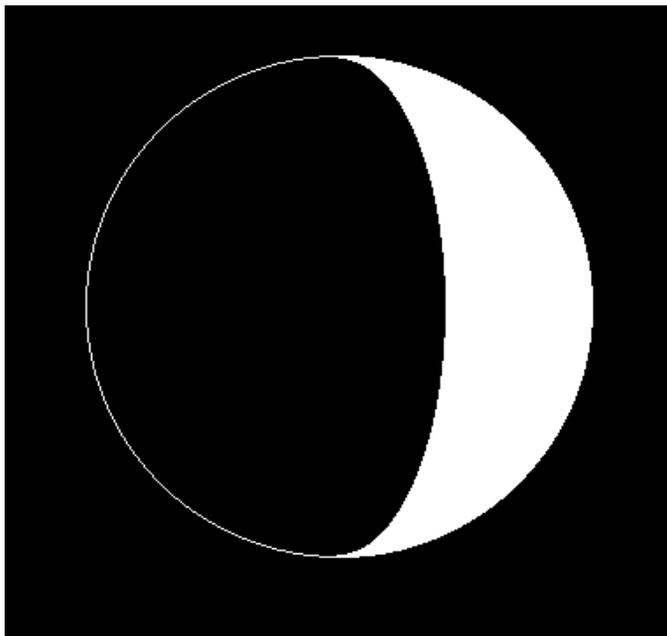
Bottom

First Quarter



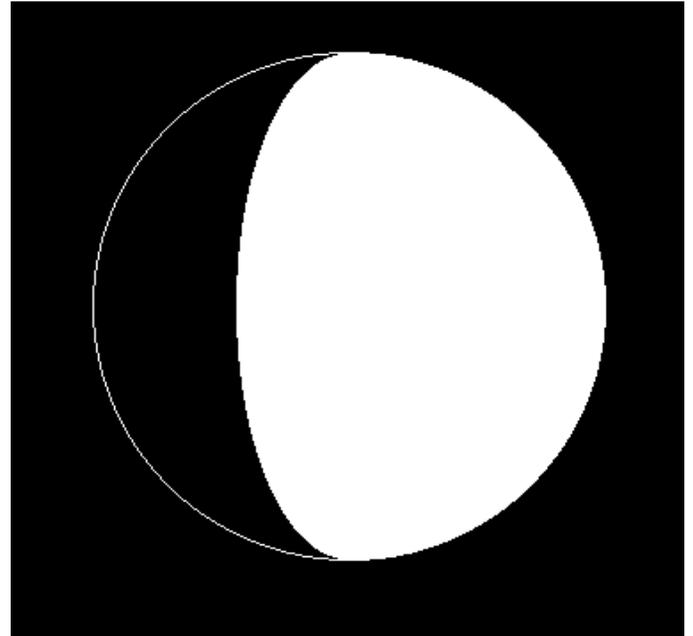
Bottom

Waxing Crescent



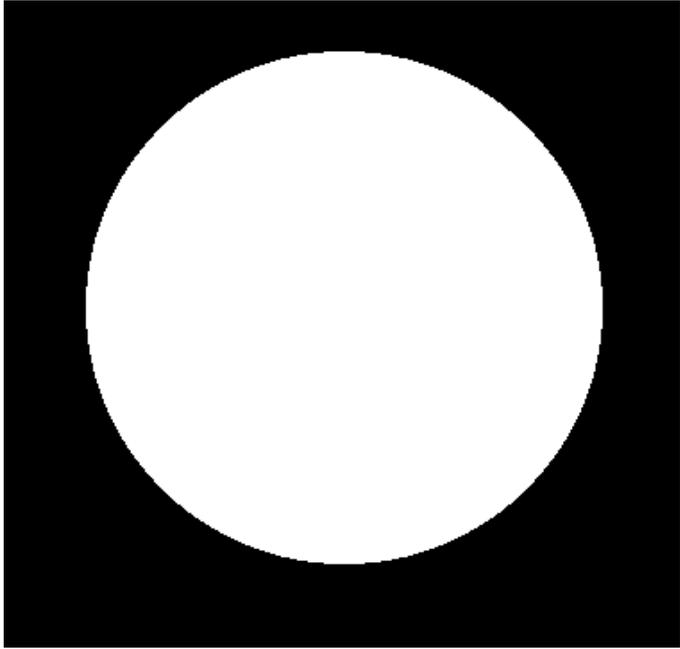
Bottom

Waxing Gibbous



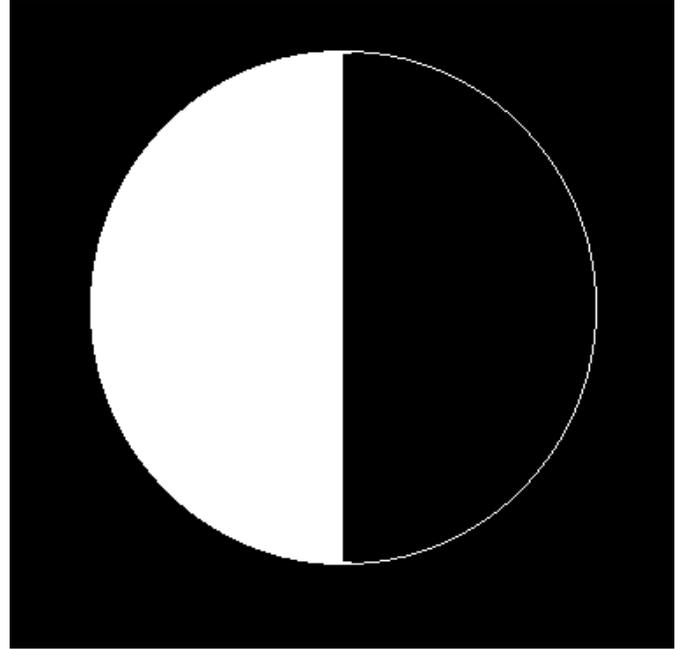
Bottom

Full Moon



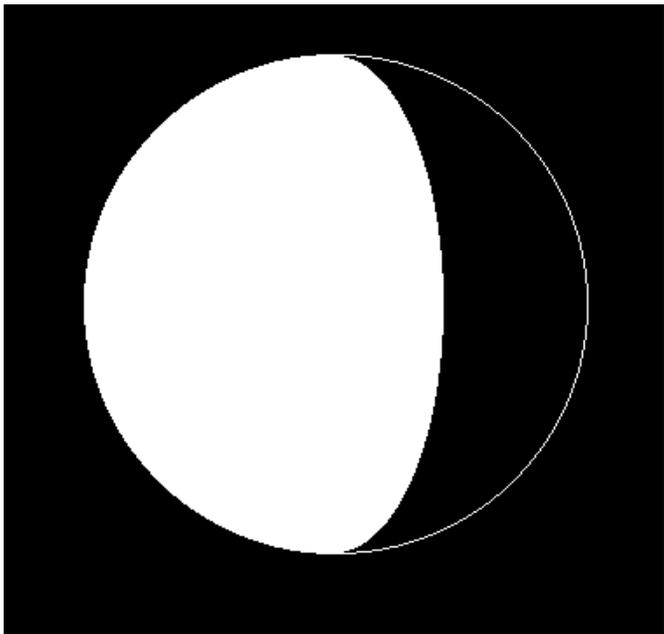
Bottom

Last Quarter



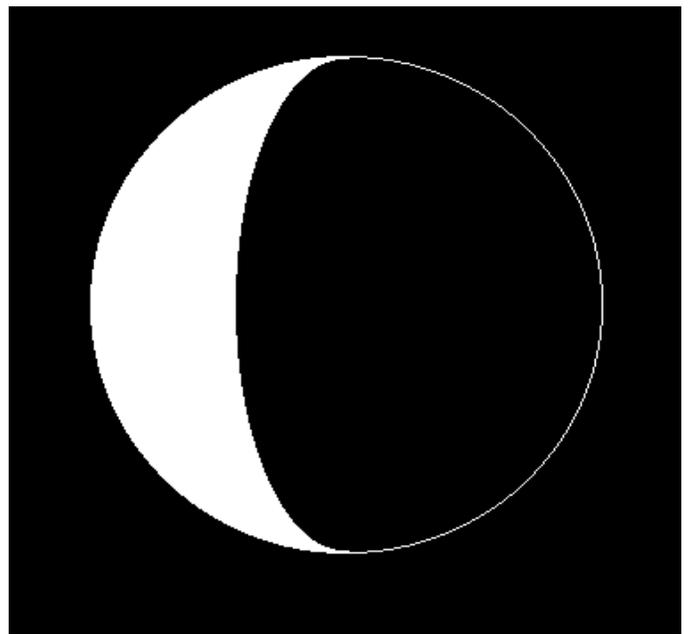
Bottom

Waning Gibbous



Bottom

Waning Crescent



Bottom