

MOON WATCH

JOURNAL INSTRUCTIONS

Track the Phases of the Moon with your Child/Student



Moon Watch Journal – TRACKING THE PHASES OF THE MOON

Materials Needed:

- black construction paper
- white crayons or white paint and paint brushes
- tape or glue (bottles or gluesticks)
- circle template
- pencil
- cover page printout
- moon phase label sheets

To Start:

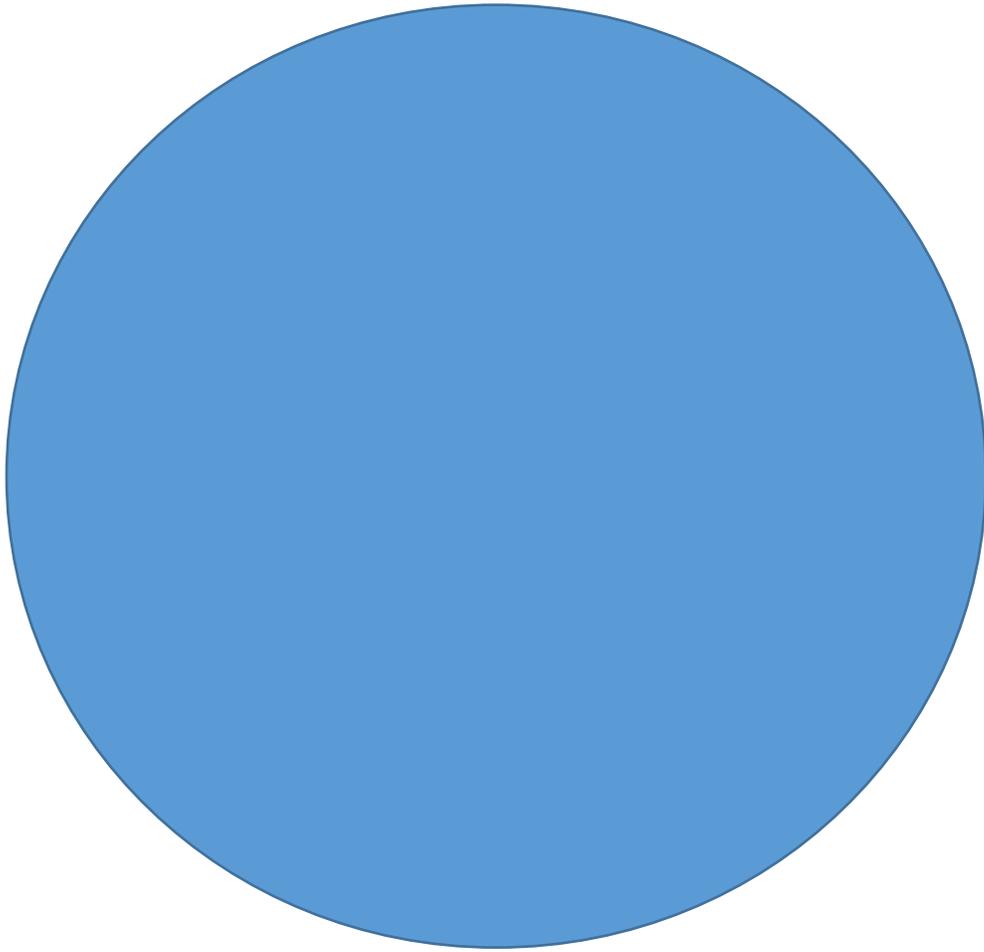
Print out the “Moon Watch” cover page and tape or glue to one of the black pieces of construction paper. This will be the cover of your child/student’s journal.

Print out the page with the white circle. Cut out the circle and use it as a template to trace circles towards the top of several pieces of the black construction paper. These will be the pages where your child/student will show the phase of the moon they observe each night.

Start observing: look for the moon every night (or every few nights, depending on how much you want to track). Have your child/student use a white crayon or white paint to fill in the circle on the page to match what they see of the moon. The white color represents the visible light of the moon for that night. Afterwards, have them identify which phase of the moon is represented (you can also choose to decide whether it is “waxing” (light increasing) or “waning” (light decreasing). Cut out the box with the name of the moon phase for that night and glue/tape beneath the moon on the bottom of the page.

Continue observing for as long as desired.

Moon Template – cut out circle and, using a pencil, trace the circle on as many black construction pages as desired



Moon Phases:

New Moon - when the moon is between the earth and sun, so the light is on the side of the moon we cannot see, thus we do not see any light during a new moon.

Full Moon - when the sun is able to light up the entire part of the moon facing us, and we see a "full" circle.

Half Moon (or first quarter and third quarter moons) - when half of the moon is illuminated by the sun, and the other half is in the shadows.

Gibbous Moon - when more than half of the moon is illuminated (can be a waxing or waning gibbous depending on whether the light is increasing or decreasing).

Crescent Moon - when less than half of the moon is illuminated (can be a waxing or waning gibbous, depending on whether the light is increasing or decreasing)



Moon Phase Labels – print as often as needed – tape or glue beneath each moon after filling in how much visible light there is

New Moon

Full Moon

Half Moon

Gibbous Moon

Crescent Moon

MOON

WATCH

Name of Observer:
