

Cultural Original Lesson: The Moon

Aims of the exercise:

Practical aims:

To increase familiarity with the Moon and its cycles, the way that it effects tides and human behavior.

Developmental Aims:

Development of curiosity and inquiry, development of the ability to reason, increasing concentration, preparation for astronomy activities.

Preparation of the Child:

Skills: The basic control of the self, and communication abilities: observing and looking and listening skills.

Materials: Beginning Practical Life activities and sensorial experiences. Lesson and extensions of Exercise “The Solar System.”

List of Materials:

Description: Books and activities pertaining to the moon, with illustrations of it. In particular, image of the moon full, waxing and waning.

Presentation:

1. Invite the child(ren) to the lesson.
2. Stand up in place and say, “I am going to sing a song with some hand gestures. Would you like to watch and listen and then try to sing it yourself?”
3. The song goes like this:
“Where is the moon when the moon is new?
it’s a sliver on the right, growing bigger ever night.
Where is the moon when the moon is round?
It’s rising! As the sun is going down!
Where is the moon when the moon is waning?
It’s fading to the left, ‘til there’s no moon remaining.”
4. The second time around, one should sing it using accompanying hand gestures.
5. The third time one should ask if the children would like to sing a line after you.
6. You should sing it call & response style a few times through and then suggest that the children also mimic your hand gestures, which look like the moon in the phases it describes.
7. You should repeat this presentation until the children have committed it to memory over the course of a few weeks.
8. If the children enjoyed the song about the moon and would like to learn more about it, show them the place where other works pertaining to the moon are on the shelf in the cultural area.
9. Suggest to the children to try and see the moon this evening before bed.
10. If they do, you can follow up the next day by asking as to whether the moon is full, waxing, or waning.

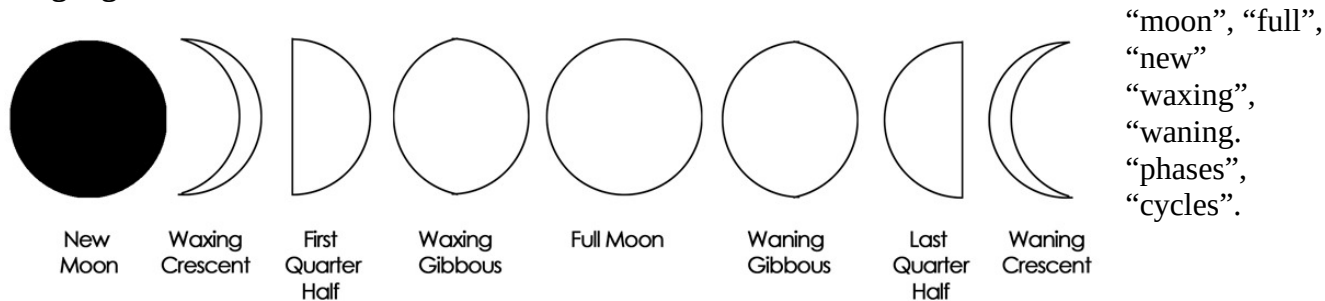
Control of Error:

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Points of Interest:

The magnetic quality of the moon, the beauty of the melody of the song, the hand gestures.

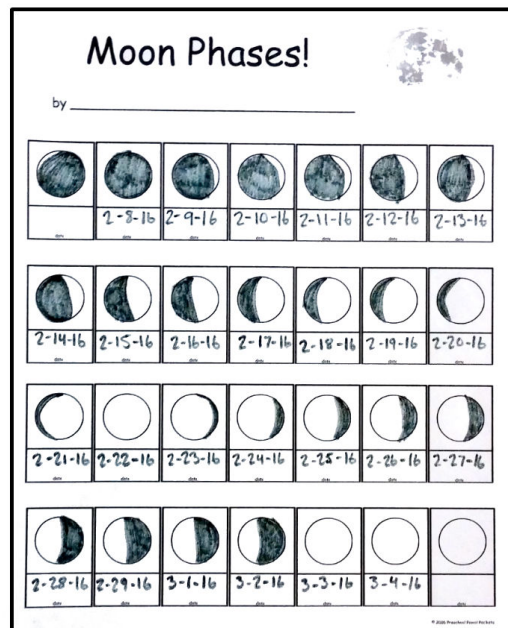
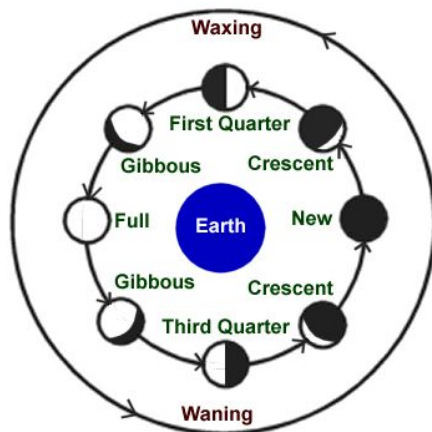
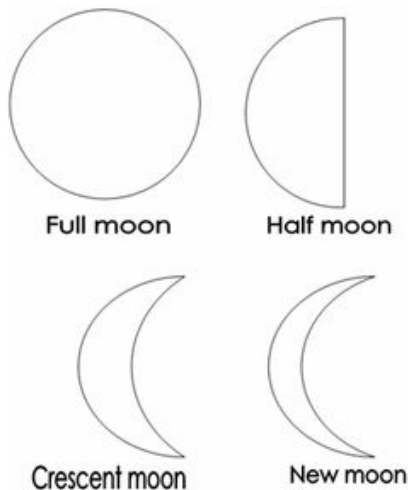
Language:



Age: 2.6 and up.

Variations:

Learning about the moon’s ability to change the tides and the body rhythms of beings on Earth through a variety of means, painting and drawing the cycles of the moon, writing a story about the moon and its phases, nomenclature cards of the phases of the moon with booklets, making a simplified moon calendar.



Extensions:

Looking at images/video of the moon in it’s various phases.

Source: My dear friend Amandacera Hannon taught me this lovely song and this year the children in my class performed it for our winter concert, and loved it!