

# Phases of the MOON



When you look at the moon how does the shape seem to change over time?

We observed the moon and then read books to learn more about what we saw. We found out that the moon doesn't really change shape. The change is just how much of the moon you can see.

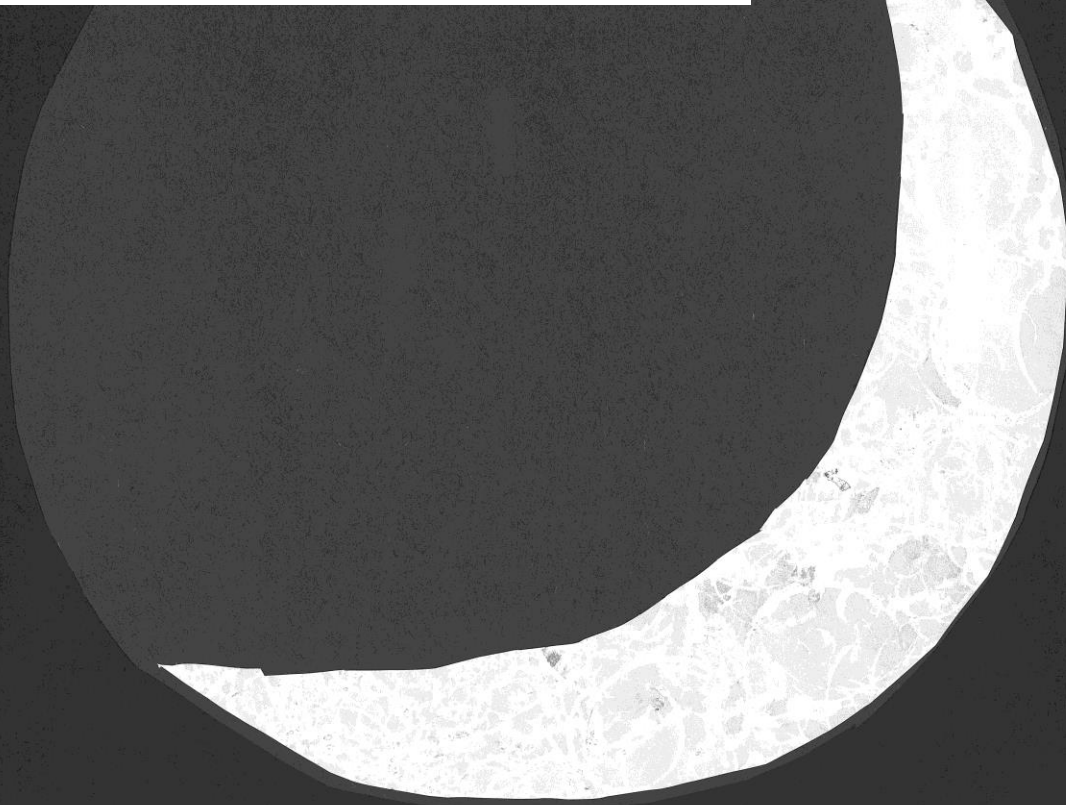
But, the shape of the moon appears to change over time.

This is the new moon.  
It looks all dark.



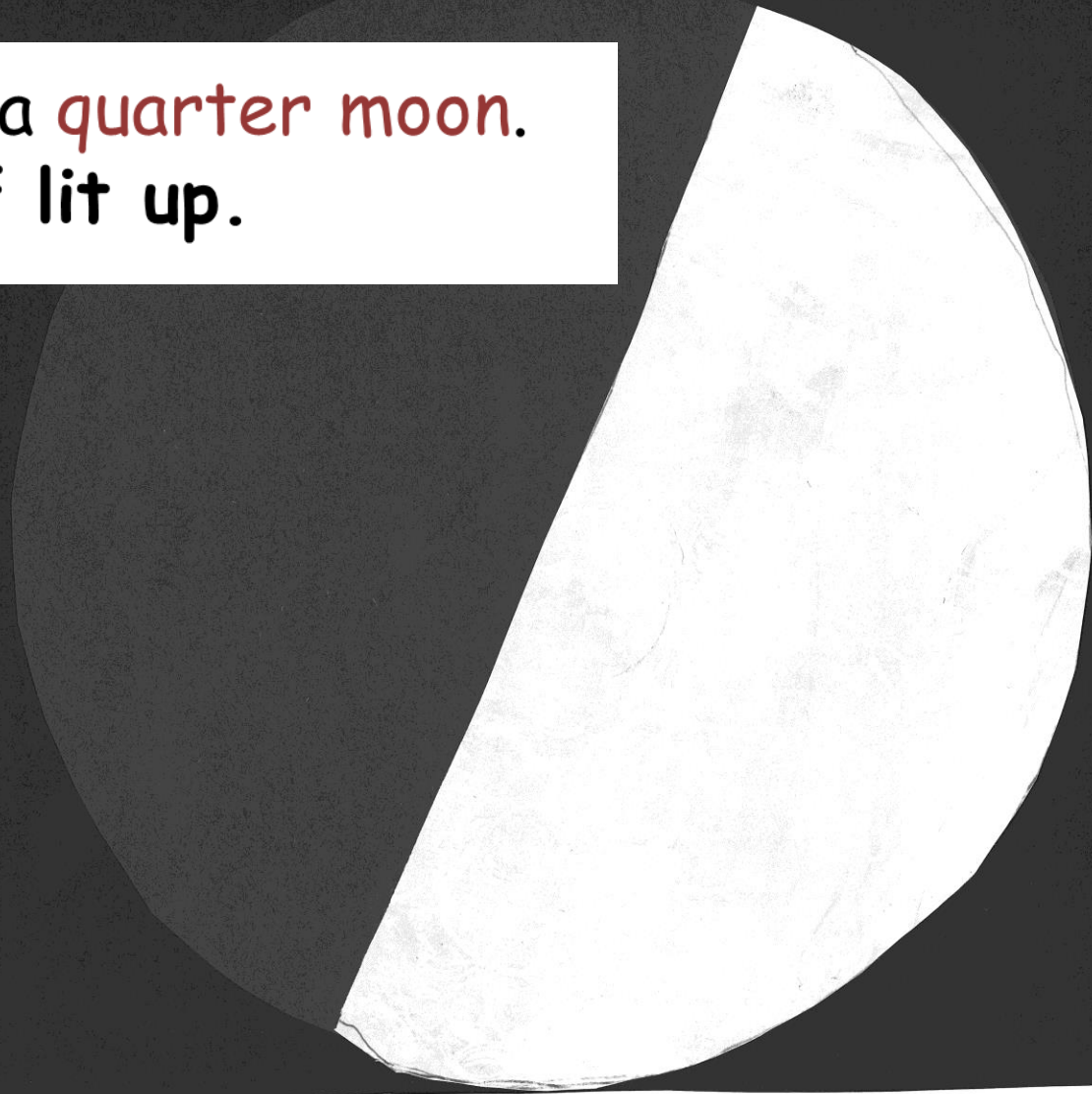


Then comes a **crescent moon**.  
It looks like a **smile** or a **banana**.



The moon seems to be getting bigger.

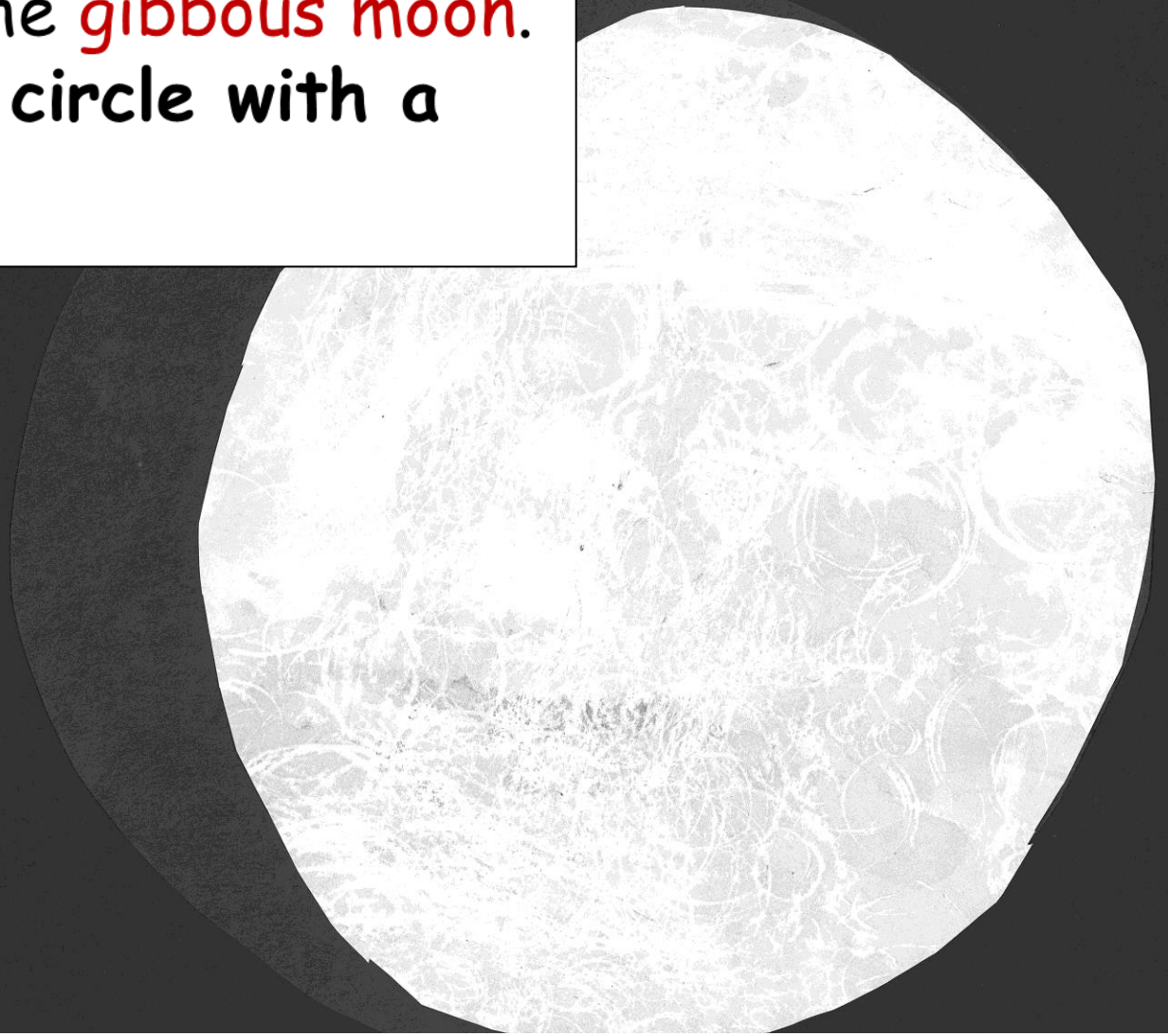
Then comes a **quarter moon**.  
It looks half lit up.



The moon seems to be getting  
**bigger.**



Then comes the **gibbous moon**.  
It looks like a circle with a  
smile cut out.




The moon seems to be getting  
**bigger.**



Then there is a **full moon**.  
It looks all lit up and round.



After the full moon, the moon  
appears to get smaller.

A large, bright, gibbous moon is shown against a dark background. The moon is mostly illuminated, with a small portion of its surface in shadow, creating a crescent-like indentation on the right side. The surface of the moon is detailed with various craters and maria.

This is the **gibbous moon**.  
It looks like a full moon with a  
crescent cut out of it.


The moon seems to be getting  
smaller .

Then comes the **quarter moon**.  
It looks like a full moon with  
one half cut out.



The moon seems to be getting  
smaller.





Then comes the **crescent moon**.  
It looks like a **grin**.

The moon seems to be getting  
smaller.

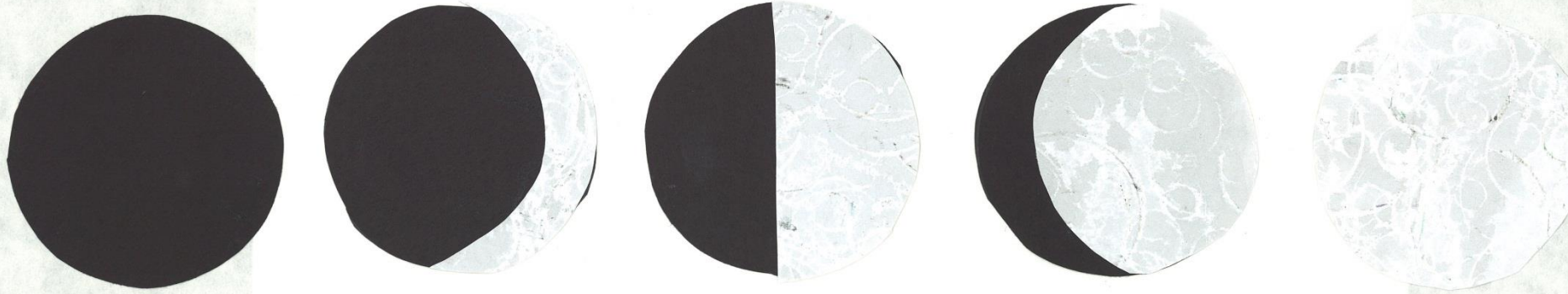
Now it's a **new moon** again, and we can't see it night or day!

Then the whole thing happens all over again. **First the moon seems to get bigger, then the moon seems to get smaller.**









It's one of nature's awesome  
patterns!

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