Phases of the Moon



THE EIGHT PHASES

More than half of the Moon

is illuminated, but it's not

yet a full Moon.

Waxing

Gibbous

Full Moon

The side of the Moon

that is lit by the Sun is

facing Earth, and the

entire Moon appears to

be illuminated.

Waning Gibbous

The Moon is less than fully

illuminated, but more than

half. Waning means

"to slowly decrease."

HOW IT LOOKS

FROM EARTH

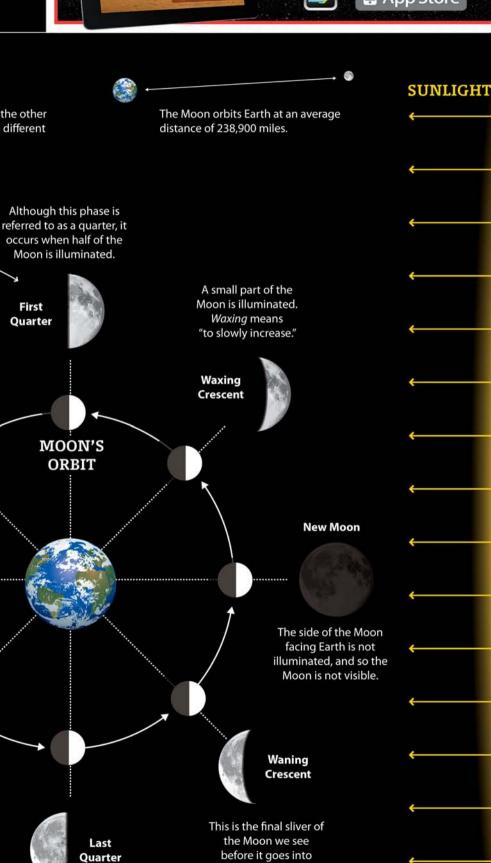
Just like Earth, half of the Moon is lit by the Sun, and the other half is in darkness. The phases we see result from the different angles at which sunlight hits the Moon.

First

Quarter

ORBIT

Half of the Moon is illuminated.



darkness again.

Source: NASA