

The Moon
Lesson Plan Five

Tracking the Moon

Standard II: Students will understand that the appearance of the moon changes in a predictable cycle as it orbits Earth and as Earth rotates on its axis.

Objective 1: Demonstrate how the relative positions of Earth, the Moon, and the Sun create the appearance of the Moon's phases.

Indicator a: Describe changes in the appearance of the moon during a month.

Indicator b: Identify the pattern of change in the moon's appearance.

Indicator c: Use observable evidence to explain the movement of the moon around Earth in relationship of Earth turning on its axis and the position of the moon changing in the sky.

Supplies:

- Moon Observation Chart
- "Where to Find the Moon" Chart

Directions:

Give the Moon Observation Chart to each student.

1. Tell the students they are going to begin observing and tracking the moon.
2. Give them the "Where to Find the Moon" chart.
3. Go over the chart with them as to when the moon is going to be seen in the day and/or the night sky.
4. Have them notice the pattern from phase to phase of when the moon is up, in relationship to the sun's position.
5. Assign the students to observe the moon in the sky each day/night. Students should color the part of the visible circle that is illuminated yellow, and the part that is not illuminated black.
6. Students should keep a journal of the appearance of the sky in their journals.