

Lesson Plan 6

The Moon Finder

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: Explain patterns of changes in the appearance of the moon as it orbits Earth.

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.

Objective 2: Demonstrate how the relative positions of Earth, the moon, and the sun create the appearance of the moon's phases.

Indicator b: Compare how objects in the sky (the moon, planets, stars) change in relative positions over the course of the day or night.

Indicator c: Model the movement and relative positions of Earth the Moon, and the sun.

Supplies: Moon Finder Chart

Directions:

Give the Moon Finder Chart to the students.

1. Tell the students that they are going to be able to find where the moon is at any given time.
2. Color the sun yellow.
3. Go outside when you know the moon is in our sky.
4. Be sure you know which moon phase you are looking for.
5. Point the sun to where the sun is.
6. The moon phase you are looking for is going to be at the angle the moon phase is on the chart.
7. Have the students explain why they are able to find the moon by using this chart?