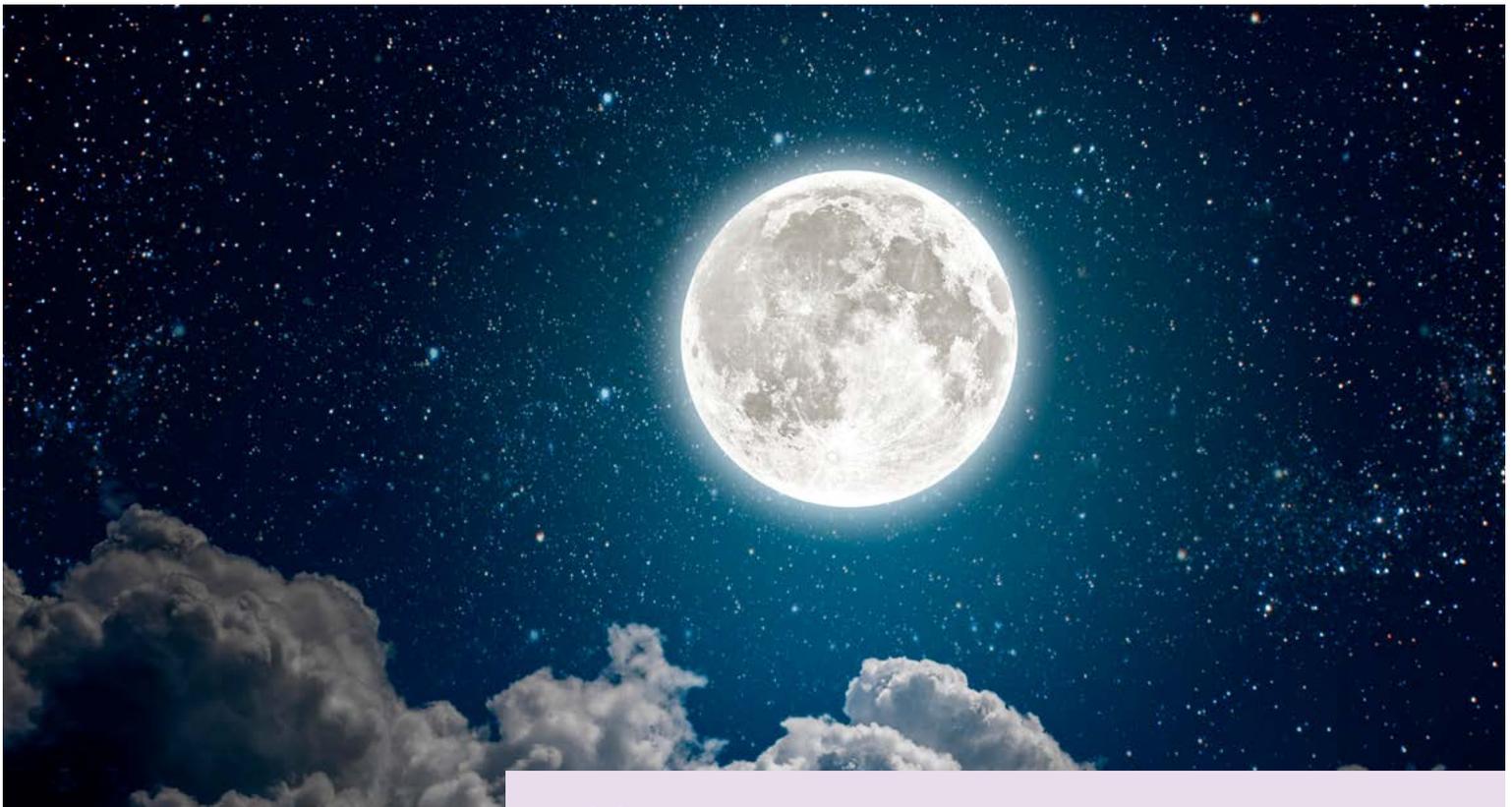




Why do we only see one side of the moon from earth?



Objectives

Students will...

- Observe earth/moon relationship
- Develop concept of rotation vs. revolution
- Develop concept of why we only see one side of the moon

Materials list

- 2 students (1 represents earth; 1 represents moon)
- Labels for “Moon” and “Earth” or cut out pictures of the moon and earth

Activity

- Put the student representing the earth in the middle of an open space. The student representing the moon will need enough room to revolve around the earth.
- Review how the earth spins counter-clockwise and makes one complete rotation every 24 hours. The moon rotates in the same direction, but it takes 27 days to make one complete rotation on its axis.
- Direct the student “earth” to slowly rotate counter-clockwise to simulate the rotation of the earth.
- Direct the student “moon” to face earth and slowly move in a counter-clockwise direction. Each time the earth makes a complete rotation, the student “moon” will side step, continuing to face the earth. Students will be able to see that the same side of the moon is always facing earth.

Discussion

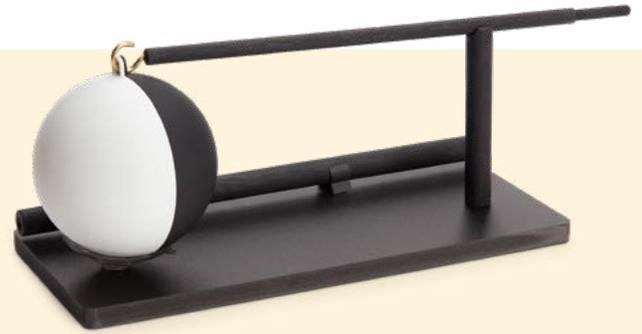
The moon rotates on its axis once every 27.3 days (sidereal period). Its revolution around the earth is about the same as its rotation period. (This is called synchronous rotation.) The near side of the moon is always visible from earth.

Check out these other great moon phase products

Moon Phase Demonstrator

Where and when does the moon appear in the sky when it has a particular phase? When is the moon visible? When does the moon rise and set in relation to sunrise and sunset? This device helps students conceptualize the answers to these questions by showing how the moon's appearance changes over a period of one month.

SB48259



Moon Phaser

Bring the moon right into your classroom using this incredibly effective demonstration of the moon phases and lunar cycle. Two "AAA" batteries (included) illuminate the moon globe from within. A DVD provides practical information on the teaching of lunar motion and the phases of the moon, classroom set up, preparation of students, and proper demonstration techniques.

SB34839



Moon Phases Poster

This one-color poster shows eight phases of the moon. Laminated cardstock.

SB37751 28"W x 8"H

SB49897 96"W x 18"H

Moon Phases Cling Activity Set

Help your students understand the phases of the moon using this interactive cling set. Students can place the moon phases in their correct order, label them using the cling's labels, or write them using the wet-erase marker, and participate in other extension activities.

SB44373

