

The Children's Moon

STORYTIME ACTIVITIES

It's Just a Phase

It takes 29.5 days, and many phases, for the moon to go from New Moon to New Moon.

Each phase has its very own lovely name. When the moon appears bigger, we say it is waxing.

When it appears to grow smaller, we say it is waning.



SEE THE PHASES IN ACTION

What you'll need: A foam craft ball, a flat surface, a sharpened pencil, and a lamp.

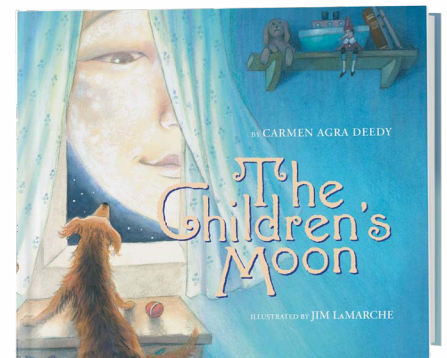
What to do: With adult supervision, follow the steps below to discover what happens when the moon orbits the earth. In this experiment, you are the earth!

1. Place a lamp on a table in the center of a room and turn it on. This will be the sun.
2. To make the moon, stick the pencil into the ball.
3. Turn off all lights, except for the lamp, so that the room is as dark as possible.
4. Hold the pencil with the "moon" and keep your arm out straight in front of you.
5. While still holding the moon with your arm out, rotate your body slowly to the left.

What do you see? As the moon moves, you'll notice each of the phases. Discuss why this happens.

Writing Prompt

Write or tell your own imaginative pourquoi tale explaining why you think we use the terms "waxing" and "waning" to refer to the phases of the moon. Then, research the origins of each term.



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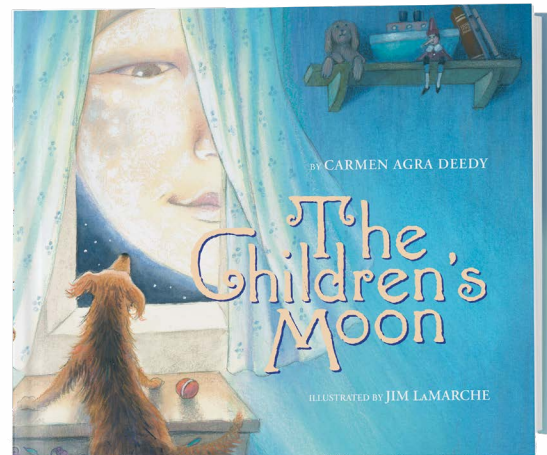
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The Children's Moon **PRINTABLE STORYTIME PROPS**

Directions: Print, cut out, and tape or glue each image to a popsicle stick to create sun and moon hand puppets perfect for engaging kids' imagination! As you read the book aloud, your audience can act out the movement of the sun and moon throughout the story. After storytime, these props can be used to tell new stories inspired by *The Children's Moon*!

Tip: Enlarge the size of this page before printing for an even more impressive hand puppet.



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