

Moon Phases AR Discovery Questions and Answers

These discovery questions are incorporated into the Indoor Discovery View of the [Moon Phases AR App](#). Students cooperatively read one question and use the App to observe and discover the correct answer, before moving onto the next question. When all questions have been answered, students can click on 'check' and they can view how many questions are correct.

Discovery Question #1

We never see the 'far side' of the Moon from Earth

True. It takes the Moon 27.3 days to orbit the Earth. The Moon also makes one rotation every 27.3 days so the 'far side' of the Moon is always facing away from us.

Discovery Question #2

The Moon only comes out at night

False. We often see the Moon during the day. However, a Full Moon cannot usually be seen during the day and a New Moon is not visible from Earth at all.

Discovery Question #3

The Moon orbits the Earth once a day

False. It takes 27.3 days for the Moon to orbit the Earth. For us to actually see Full Moon to Full Moon, this takes 29.5 days as the Earth has changed its position in its orbit around the Sun.

Discovery Question #4

There is a 'dark side' of the Moon

False. When the far side of the Moon is facing the Sun, it is lit. It is more correct to call the side that we never see the 'far side' of the Moon.

Discovery Question #5

The Moon's phases are caused by a shadow from the Earth onto the Moon

False. When we look from space, we see that the Sun always shines on one side of the Moon. The phases of the Moon depend on its position in relation to the Sun and Earth that allows us to see the phases of the Moon. As the Moon makes its way around the Earth, we see the lit side of the Moon's surface in different phases.

It is only during a lunar eclipse that the Moon passes directly behind the Earth and into its shadow.

Discovery Question #6

The Sun still shines on a 'New Moon'

True. A New Moon occurs when the Moon is between the Earth and Sun. The near side of the Moon facing us is unlit, which means the Moon is not visible to the naked eye. However, the Sun still shines on the far side of the Moon, we just cannot see this from Earth.

Discovery Question #7

The Moon rotates

True. The Moon does rotate, it spins on its axis, completing one rotation every 27.3 days. It also takes that long for the Moon to orbit the Earth, so the same side of the Moon is always facing us.

Discovery Question #8

The Moon makes its own light, like the Sun

False. The Moon looks bright when the Sun's light is reflecting from it.