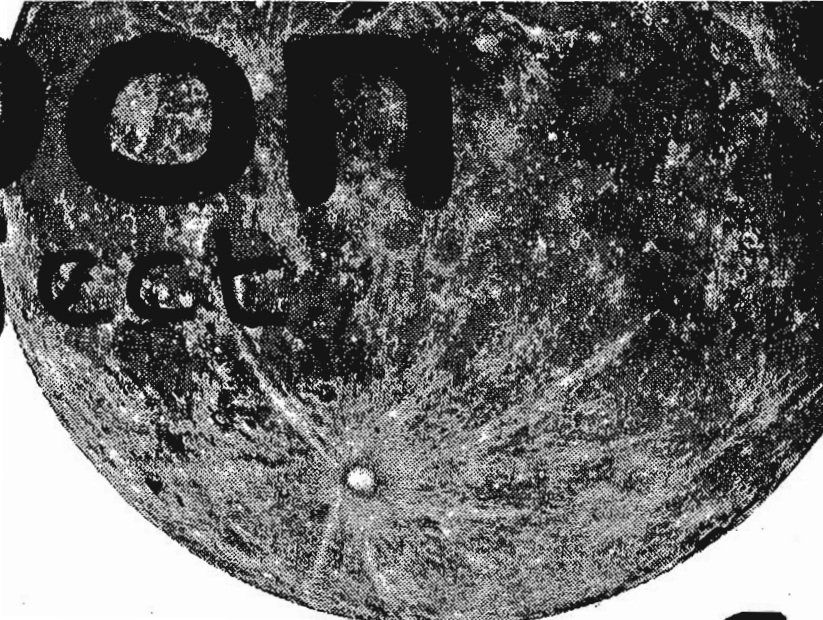
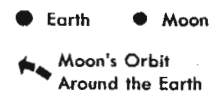


moon project

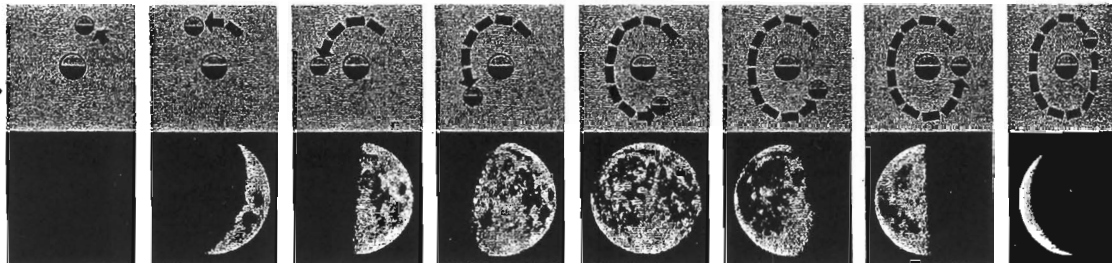
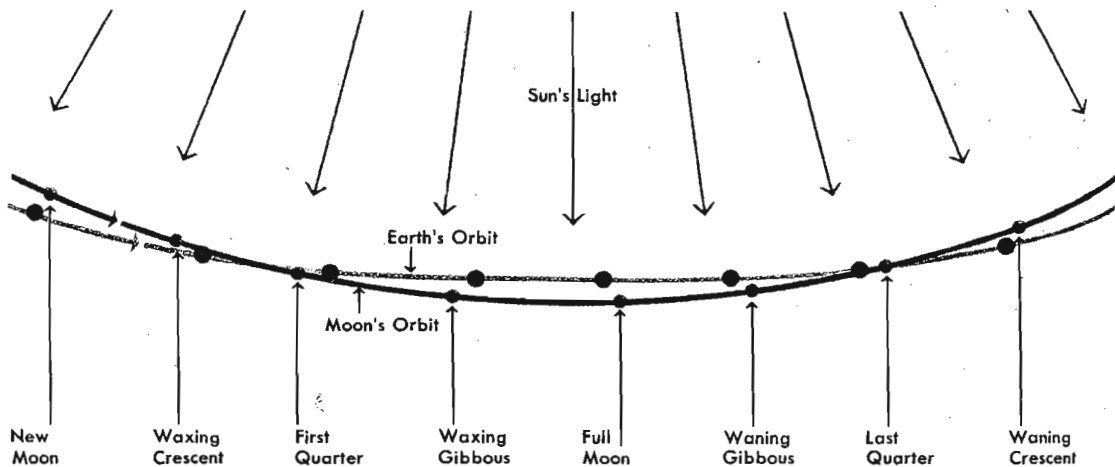


WHY THE MOON HAS PHASES



The moon seems to change shape from day to day as it goes through phases. The moon changes from *new moon* to *full moon* and back again every 29½ days. The phases are caused by the moon's orbit around the earth as the earth and moon travel around the sun. Half of the moon is always in sunlight, but varying amounts of the lighted side are visible from the earth. As the moon and earth move along their orbits, more of the sunlit part is seen until it shines as a full moon. Then less and less of the sunlit part is seen until the dark new moon returns.

WORLD BOOK diagram



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phases of the moon