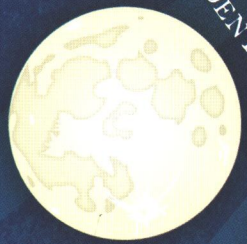
Moon Gazer's Guide

The Moon rises about fifty minutes later each day, although the interval can vary depending on the season and the Sun-Earth-Moon geometry. This progressively later rising time is caused by the Moon's eastward orbital motion around the Earth every month. After a complete cycle of lunar phases, the Moon is back to where it started.

Use this map to identify the features you can see on the lunar surface. — Photo by Doug George



Man in the Moon

The Beetle

Lady in the Moon

Rabbit on the Moon

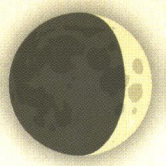
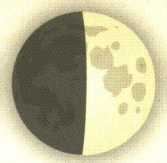
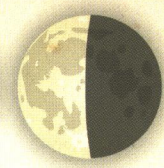
St. George Slaying the Dragon (Southern Hemisphere)

Different people see different patterns in the light and dark areas of the Moon's surface.

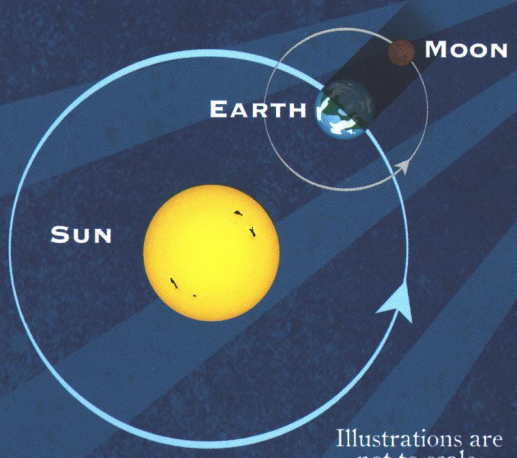
THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA · LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

rasc.ca

When and Where can I see the Moon in the Sky?

Moon Phase	 NEW MOON	 WAXING CRESCENT	 FIRST QUARTER	 WAXING GIBBOUS	 FULL MOON	 WANING GIBBOUS	 THIRD QUARTER	 WANING CRESCENT
Rises	Sunrise	After sunrise	Noon	Afternoon	Sunset	Night (PM)	Midnight	Just before sunrise
Eastern Sky	Morning	Morning	Afternoon	Sunset	Night (PM)	Midnight	Night (AM)	Morning
Highest in Sky	Noon	Just after noon	Sunset	Night (PM)	Midnight	Night (AM)	Sunrise	Just before noon
Western Sky	Afternoon	Afternoon	Evening	Midnight	Night (AM)	Sunrise	Morning	Afternoon
Sets	Sunset	Just after sunset	Midnight	Night (AM)	Sunrise	Morning	Noon	Just before sunset

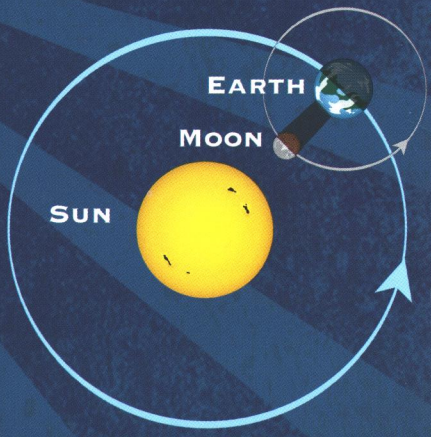
Lunar Eclipse



Illustrations are not to scale.

A Lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth casts its shadow on the Moon; a Solar eclipse occurs when the Moon casts its shadow on the Earth. They do not occur every month because the plane of the Moon's orbit around the Earth is tilted by 5 degrees. This means the shadows cast by the Earth or Moon will not always fall across the other's surface.

Solar Eclipse



This Moon Gazer's Guide was prepared under the leadership of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), the Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA), and the Fédération des Astronomes Amateurs du Québec (FAAQ), organizations of amateur and professional astronomers who share the vision of inspiring curiosity in all people about the Universe, sharing scientific knowledge, and fostering collaboration in astronomical pursuits.

Project leader, content and concept by Mary Lou Whitehorne, RASC

rasc.ca

casca.ca

faaq.org

Partial funding support from NSERC CRSNG

nserc-crsng.gc.ca