

Next Time You See the MOON



BY EMILY MORGAN


NSTA Kids
National Science Teachers Association

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*To my dear friend Jenni Davis, for sharing the wonders
of the sky with me and countless others.*

*“In every walk with Nature
one receives far more than he seeks.”*
— John Muir



A NOTE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

The books in this series are intended to be read with a child *after* he has had some experience with the featured objects or phenomena. For example, go outside on a clear night, lie on a blanket together, and stare up at the Moon. You can find moonrise and moonset times for your area online. Talk about what you observe and what you wonder. Share how you feel as you lie on the Earth and look up at the sky. Over the next few weeks, pay attention to the Moon’s changing shape as the days pass. Notice that sometimes you can see the Moon at night, and sometimes you see it during the day. You might even keep a record of the changing shapes on a calendar and record your observations and questions in a Moon journal.

Then, after you’ve had some experiences observing this beautiful satellite of ours, read this book together. Take time to pause and share your learnings and wonderings with each other. You will find that new learnings often lead to more questions.

The *Next Time You See* books are not meant to present facts to be memorized. They were written to inspire a sense of wonder about ordinary objects or phenomena and foster a desire to learn more about the natural world. Children are naturally fascinated by the Moon, and when they learn that its changing shape is caused by its orbit around Earth, the Moon becomes even more remarkable. My wish is that after reading this book, you and your child feel a sense of wonder the next time you see the Moon.

—Emily Morgan



If you keep track of the Moon phases for a while, you will discover that it takes about a month (29 days) to observe all of the Moon phases. This is because it takes about a month for the Moon to orbit the Earth. So, when you look at the Moon today, know that you will see that same phase again about a month from now.

The phases of the Moon always occur in the same order. In the days after a new Moon, we see more and more of the lighted side. We say the Moon is *waxing*, which means growing. Of course, the Moon is not *actually* growing; we are just seeing more of the lighted side as the Moon orbits Earth.

After a full Moon, we begin to see less of the lighted side. We say the Moon is *waning*, which means shrinking. We see less and less of the lighted side until we are back to new Moon, and the cycle begins again. All of these changes happen because the Moon is orbiting Earth.



Next Time You See the MOON



This fascinating book will stay with children every time they gaze up at the night sky. Through vivid pictures and engaging explanations, children will learn about many of the Moon's mysteries: what makes it look like a silvery crescent one time and a chalk-white ball a few nights later, why it sometimes appears in the daytime, where it gets its light, and how scientists can predict its shape on your birthday a thousand years from now. *Next Time You See the Moon* is an ideal way to explain the science behind the shape of the Moon and bring about an evening outing no child—or grown-up—will soon forget.



Awaken a sense of wonder in a child with the *Next Time You See* series from NSTA Kids. The books will inspire elementary-age children to experience the enchantment of everyday phenomena such as sunsets, seashells, fireflies, pill bugs, and more. Free supplementary activities are available on the NSTA website.

Especially designed to be experienced with an adult—be it a parent, teacher, or friend—*Next Time You See* books serve as a reminder that you don't have to look far to find something remarkable in nature.

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