

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
KINDERGARTEN**

Title of Lesson: The Phases of the Moon

Theme: Earth/Space Science

Unit Number: 3 **Unit Title:** Space, Time and Gravity

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter codes):

SKCS4

SKE1

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Night sky, moon

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): Students learn about the moon and its four main phases.

Details: Start by asking the children some things that they see in the night sky. Once the answer "moon" is given, begin to tell them how the moon rotates around the earth. Then place the globe in the center of the table, take the Styrofoam ball, which will signify the moon and rotate it around the earth, showing how the moon has different phases as it moves around the earth, using the black side to show the new moon, only a slight bit of white to show the crescent, half of the black to show the half moon, and the entire white side to show the new moon.

After discussing the idea of moon and its rotation and phases with them, give them each a paper plate and four Oreo cookies. Instruct them to twist the Oreo cookies apart. For the younger kids, I placed four drops of frosting above the labels so that they would know where to "glue" their cookies. Have an example ready to show them where to put the new moon (the top part of the Oreo), crescent moon (has little icing), half moon (has half amount of icing), and new moon (has all icing on one side). After they were all done gluing their Oreos down, I allowed them to eat the extra pieces they had left. We went over the phases again and I would ask them a phase and they would point it out to me. We then put our plates in ziploc bags to take home and eat later.

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

Oreo cookies

Paper plates

Frosting

Plastic knives

Styrofoam ball, half painted black

Globe (can get from school library)

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

Be careful giving knives to younger children and make sure their hands are clean because they will be touching food.

Sources/References:

1)

2)

3)