

# Vocabulary



**gibbous** a phase of the Moon between the full moon and a quarter moon, or between a quarter moon and new moon

This phase of the Moon is not exactly half of a circle and it is not exactly a whole circle. It occurs twice a month: when the Moon is going toward full, and when it is going away from full.

**orbit** the path an object follows when it travels around another object

Earth follows its orbit as it revolves around the Sun. The Moon follows its orbit when it revolves around Earth.

**phase** one of the changing ways that the Moon appears, as seen from Earth

You have seen different phases of the Moon. The brightest moon is the full moon. The dark moon is called the new moon. Other phases look like crescents, or are nearly round, or are half circles.

**revolve** to travel in a circle or oval around another object

Earth revolves around the Sun about every  $365\frac{1}{4}$  days (one year). The Moon revolves around Earth about every 27 days (about four weeks).