



# Moon Phases Lesson Plan: Grade 5

Grade Level: **Fifth Grade** | Duration: **Two days, 30 minutes per lesson**

## Objective

In this lesson, fifth graders use BrainPOP resources to understand how moon phases are related to positions of the Earth, Moon, and Sun.

Students will:

- 1. Build Background Knowledge:**
  - Watch the BrainPOP Moon Phases movie.
- 2. Think and Do:**
  - Vocabulary: Define vocabulary and use in a sentence.
  - Graphic Organizer: Complete a diagram to describe the positioning of the Moon, Earth, and Sun at each lunar phase.
- 3. Assess:**
  - Take the Moon Phases Challenge.

## Preparation


- Preview the BrainPOP movie [Moon Phases](#) to plan for any adaptations.
- Create and schedule Day 1 assignment: [Moon Phases movie](#) and [Vocabulary](#).
- Create and schedule Day 2 assignment: [Moon Phases movie](#), [Graphic Organizer](#), and [Challenge](#).

## Before the Lesson

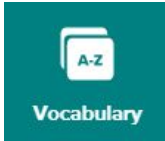



Background knowledge helps students make sense of new ideas and experiences. To activate prior knowledge, ask these questions:

- *What does the moon look like?*
- *Why do you think the moon looks different on different days?*


## DAY 1: Build Background (10 minutes)

Lesson Steps	Offline Modifications	Modifications for Diverse Learners	ELL/Language Development
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>1. Watch the <a href="#">Moon Phases</a> movie.</p> <p>Click pause at noted time codes to discuss key ideas:</p> <p>Timecode 0:57: How long is the moon's cycle? How is this related to our calendar?</p> <p>Timecode 1:53: What role does the sun play in the moon's phases?</p> <p>Timecode 2:52: What causes a full moon?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Print the <a href="#">movie transcript</a> and highlight evidence that answers each of the discussion questions.</li> <li>• Two students act out the transcript, one as Tim and the other as Moby.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set a <b>specific viewing purpose</b> for individual students or small groups based on <b>lesson objectives and student readiness</b>. For example, have students focus on one of the moon's phases.</li> <li>• Pause at two key points and prompt students to <b>summarize</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Support recall</b> by having students draw one or two key ideas from the movie.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pause for new <b>vocabulary</b>. Use the word in a sentence. Prompt students to say the word and repeat the sentence. Invite them to draw a picture of the word.</li> <li>• Create a <b>word wall</b> with vocabulary and the drawing.</li> <li>• Pause at key points and ask the <b>discussion questions</b> in the student's home language or English.</li> </ul>



## DAY 1: Think & Do (20 minutes)

Lesson Steps	Offline Modifications	Modifications for Diverse Learners	ELL/Language Development
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>2. Students open their Vocabulary assignment. Or, if not using Assignment Builder, model how to open <a href="#">Vocabulary</a>.</p> <p>Students click “Flip All” or each term individually.</p> <p>To hear a term read aloud, click the speaker icon.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Students type a definition and sentence for each term.</p> <p>When they finish, students click the <b>Submit To Teacher</b> button and/or print out.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Print Vocabulary.</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students write a definition and sentence for each term.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign <b>appropriately challenging words</b> to individual students.</li> <li>Assign a few of the six terms to individual students to <b>define</b> and <b>use in a sentence</b>.</li> <li>As a challenge, students can <b>add two additional terms</b>, writing a definition and sentence for each.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Say the term(s) in students’ <b>home language</b>. Then say the words in English. Have the student repeat in English.</li> <li>Use the <b>term in a sentence</b>. Prompt students to say the word and repeat the sentence.</li> <li>Click the <b>speaker icon</b> to hear the term read aloud.</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>


## DAY 2: Build Background (5 minutes)

Lesson Steps	Offline Modifications	Modifications for Diverse Learners	ELL/Language Development
 <p>3. Watch the <a href="#">Moon Phases</a> movie again.</p> <p>Prompt students to find a fact or something new that they didn't notice the first time.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students return to their drawings of <b>key concepts from the first viewing</b> and add new details.</li> <li>As a <b>challenge</b>, invite students to identify more than one new fact.</li> </ul>	

## DAY 2: Think & Do (20 minutes)

Lesson Steps	Offline Modifications	Modifications for Diverse Learners	ELL/Language Development
 <p>4. Students open their Graphic Organizer assignment. Or, if not using Assignment Builder, model how to open the <a href="#">Graphic Organizer</a>.</p> <p>Students type in answers about the position of the Earth, Sun, and Moon for four lunar phases.</p> <p>When they finish, students click the <b>Submit To Teacher</b> button and/or print out.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Print the Graphic Organizer. </li> <li>Students write in answers for each lunar phase.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students speak their response and <b>brainstorm</b> what they will write for each lunar phase.</li> <li><b>Model</b> how to complete the Graphic Organizer by filling in one of the phases. Demonstrate how to return to the movie to find evidence.</li> <li>Assign <b>one or two phases</b> to individual students.</li> <li>Support recall by prompting students to <b>revisit the drawings</b> they made after watching the movie.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Say the name of each phase in students' <b>home language</b> or English. Have them repeat it in English.</li> <li>Before students write, have them use their home language or English to <b>discuss what they plan to write</b>.</li> </ul>

**DAY 2: Assess (5 minutes)**

Lesson Steps	Offline Modifications	Modifications for Diverse Learners	ELL/Language Development
 <p>5. Students open their Challenge assignment. Or, if not using Assignment Builder, model how to open the <a href="#">Challenge</a>.</p> <p>If you assigned the Challenge, you will see students' results in your Dashboard. If not assigned, students click the <b>Submit to Teacher</b> button.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Print the <a href="#">Challenge</a> for students to complete.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preview Challenge tasks</b> before re-watching the movie.</li> <li>• <b>Read aloud</b> the questions and answers.</li> <li>• <b>Model</b> how to do a Challenge. Think aloud your steps and strategies.</li> <li>• <b>Support recall</b> by revisiting movie drawings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read aloud the Challenge tasks in students' <b>home language</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Highlight the key vocabulary</b> in a printable version of the Challenge.</li> </ul>