

Can you eat the moon?

Theme: Phases of the moon

Curriculum Area: Earth Sciences

The moon is much more than the sun's peek-a-boo partner, and it is constantly changing its appearance. One week it may be full, and the very next day it can be entering the third quarter of the cycle. There are 8 different phases of the moon, and they all look very different! Yet, they all follow in the same order about every 30 days. In this activity we will create a plate full of moon phases using yummy oreos!

Ages of Children: 3rd-5th grade

Materials Needed:

- Oreos
- Construction paper
- Marker/pen
- A popsicle or toothpick (to scrape the oreo filling)
- Crayons (optional for Sun and Earth drawing)



Developmental Objectives/Domains:

By participating in this activity, children will:

1. Enhance their scientific vocabulary as they will learn the names of the eight different phases of the moon.
2. Understand the way in which the moon's appearance changes with every new phase.
3. Learn the moon cycle that repeats about every 30 days.

Procedure:

1. Ask the child(ren) about the moon and its phases, state the eight phases in order so they get familiar with the names.
2. Explain that oreos are just like the moon, in the way that they are both circular. Place 8 oreos or oreo halves (with the filling on it) on a piece of construction paper.
 - a. An optional step is to draw the earth in the center of the paper, and the sun on the side to represent that planet earth has its own moon that orbits around it.
3. The next step is to scrape the oreo filling to mimic the phases of the moon, for example, the first quarter will have about half of the cream remaining on the cookie, the waxing gibbous will have a little more than half, and so on.
4. After the child has scraped the cream into the 8 different phases (use the picture above as reference) they are now ready to be placed in order. Starting with the first quarter moon phase being placed at the top, and working clockwise each phase should follow. In between each phase draw a small arrow, and label the phase with the correct name.
5. Have the child(ren) wash their hands and admire their diagram.

References: <https://sciencebob.com/oreo-cookie-moon-phases/>