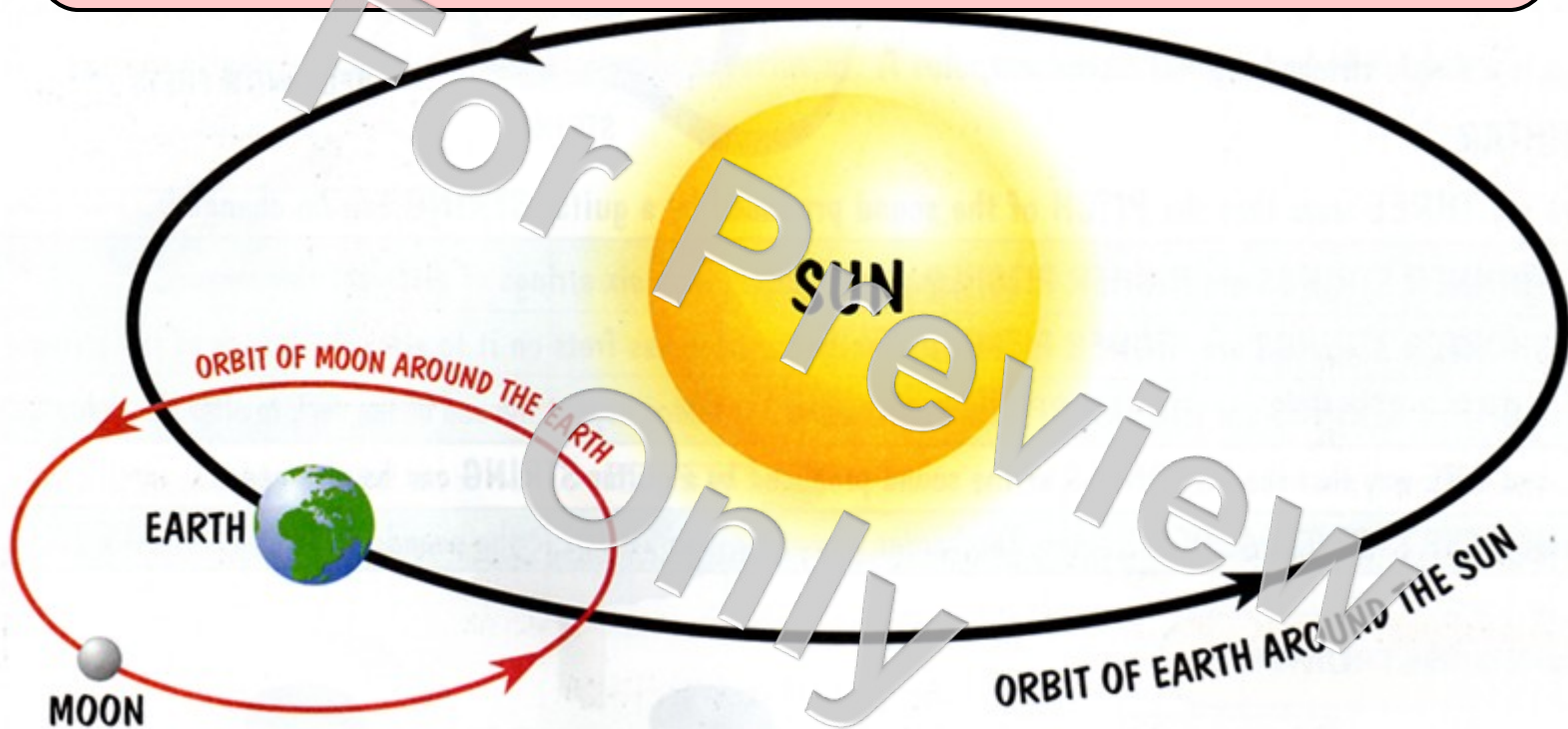


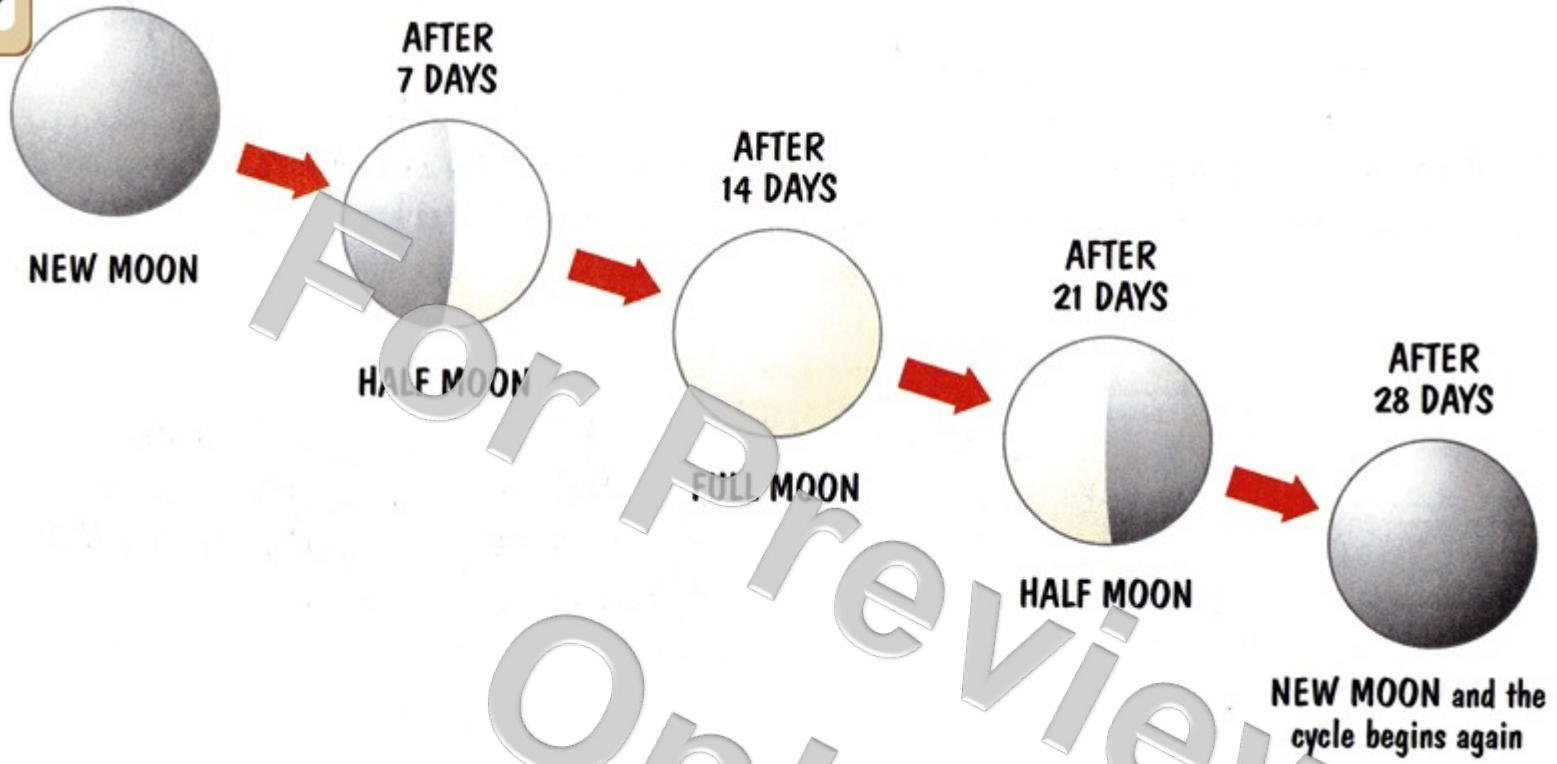
Phases of the Moon



At the same time as the Earth is orbiting the Sun, the moon is in orbit around the Earth.



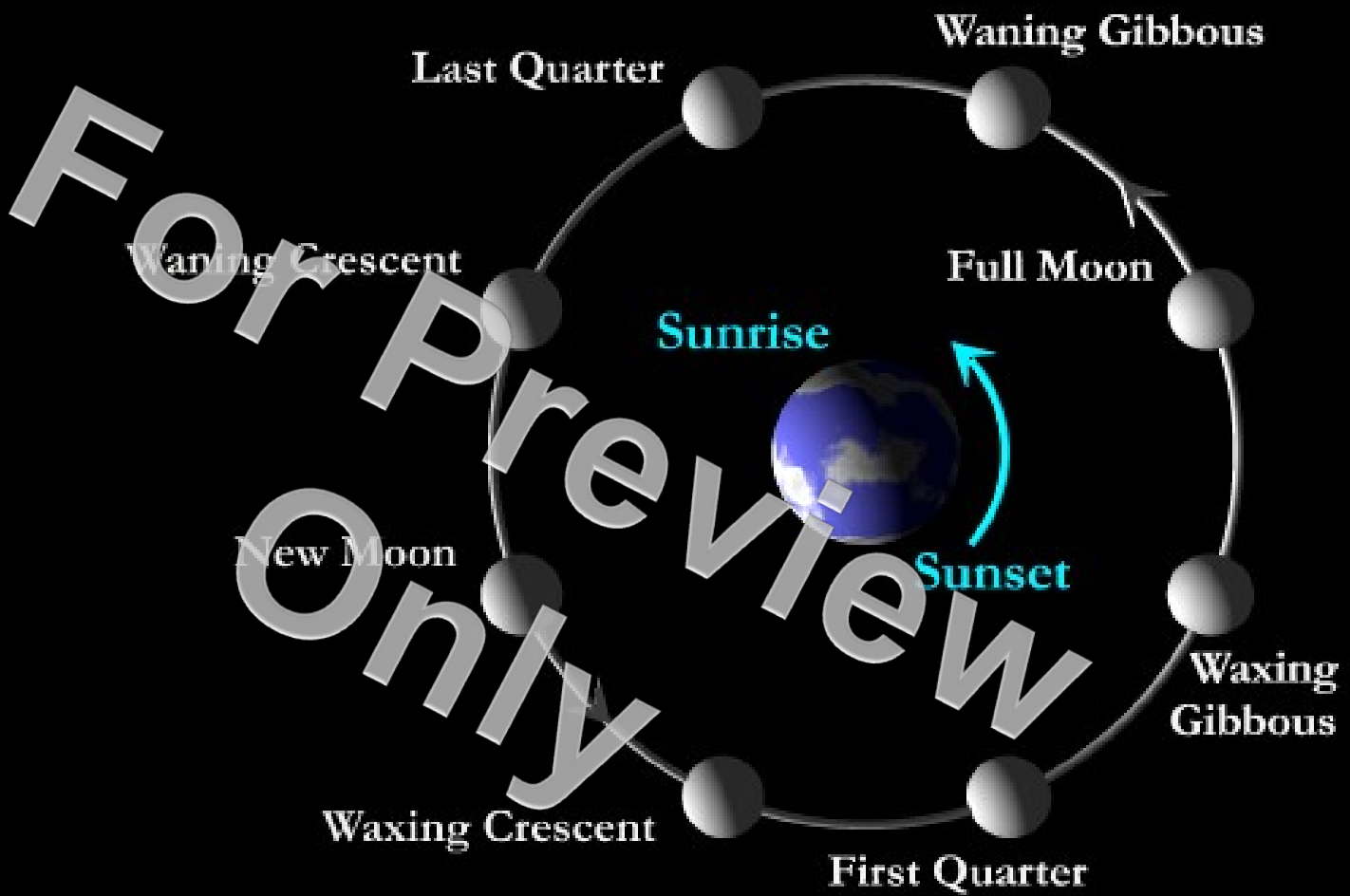
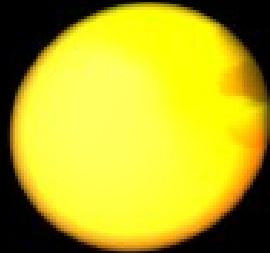
It takes 28 days for the moon to orbit round Earth once.



Over the 28 days the moon changes its appearance. The moon is illuminated because it reflects the light from the sun. The part of the moon facing the sun is lit up. The part facing away from the sun is in darkness.



The phases of the Moon depend on its position in relation to the sun and Earth. As the Moon makes its way around the Earth, we see the bright parts of the Moon's surface at different angles. These are called "phases" of the Moon.





Phases of the Moon: Animation

Only – Actions disabled
For Preview

New Moon