Have you ever wondered why the moon changes every night? Since the moon orbits the Earth, the moon’s position changes between the Earth and the sun. These movements change how much of the sun’s light reflects off of the moon, which affects how much of the moon we can see each night.

There are eight moon phases.
- **Waxing** means growing.
- **Waning** means decreasing in size.
- It takes the moon 29.53 days to go through all the phases, which is why the timing of the moon’s phases seem to change slightly each month.

**Directions:** Read each caption and follow the instructions of how to illustrate that moon phase.

1. **New Moon**
   - The moon is between the Earth and sun. We can’t see it at night. Draw a tiny crescent shape on the left, then shade the rest.

2. **Waxing Crescent**
   - The moon is becoming visible at night, but we can only see a small piece of it. Draw a tiny crescent shape on the right, and shade the rest.

3. **First Quarter**
   - The moon is 1/4 of the way around the Earth, and half of the moon is visible. Shade the left half.

4. **Waxing Gibbous**
   - The moon appears almost full. Draw a crescent on the left and shade it in.

5. **Full Moon**
   - The Earth is between the moon and sun, and it is not blocking any light. The moon looks like it is glowing. Leave the moon blank.

6. **Waning Gibbous**
   - The moon begins shrinking and we can see all but a small sliver. Draw a crescent on the right and shade it in.

7. **Last Quarter**
   - We see half of the moon again. Shade in the right half.

8. **Waning Crescent**
   - The moon appears as a small crescent shape again. Draw a tiny crescent shape on the left, then shade the rest.