Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Moon's Phases: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Science · about 140 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

The Moon's Phases

The moon does not make its own light. We see it because sunlight bounces off it. As the moon travels around Earth, we see different amounts of its sunlit side. These changing shapes are called phases.

When the moon is between Earth and the sun, the side facing us is dark. This is called a new moon, and we can barely see it. Over the next two weeks, more of the sunlit side becomes visible. First we see a thin crescent, then a half moon called the first quarter, and then a full moon, when the whole face is bright.

After the full moon, the lit part shrinks again until it is back to a new moon. The whole cycle takes about 29 and a half days. That is about one month. In fact, the word month comes from the word moon.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?
   A. how the sun makes light B. how to build a rocket C. why stars twinkle
   D. why the moon seems to change shape

2. **Detail:** Why can we see the moon?
   A. Sunlight bounces off it. B. Stars shine on it. C. It makes its own light.
   D. It is on fire.

3. **Vocabulary:** In the passage, phases are...
   A. parts of a rocket B. days of the week C. the changing shapes of the moon we see
   D. kinds of stars

4. **Detail:** What is it called when the whole face of the moon is bright?
   A. a new moon B. a full moon C. a crescent D. a quarter

5. **Detail:** How long does the whole cycle take?
   A. about 29 and a half days B. one week C. one year D. one day

6. **Inference:** Where does the word month come from?

ANSWER KEY

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