



# Moon Salt Drawings

Young children can learn to pay attention to the Moon by making a simple drawing.

Suggested Age: 3-5 years



## Materials Needed:

- ✓ Tray lined with black paper
- ✓ Table salt (or granulated sugar)
- ✓ "Moon Phase Cards" (see attached)
- ✓ Scissors

Set Up Time: 10 min

Time To Do: 20 - 30 min

## Set Up

- Use a lunar phase calendar (<https://stardate.org/night sky/moon>) to find the date when the Moon will be in its **waning gibbous phase**.
- Line the tray with black paper. Cover the paper with a thin layer of salt (or sugar).
- Cut out the **12 Moon Phase Cards**.



## What To Do

- If you want to observe the Moon at breakfast time, we recommend starting with the waning gibbous moon. Make sure it's not cloudy. You will find the waning gibbous Moon in the west at breakfast time (6am-8am is best).
- Look out a west-facing window (or go outside) and find the Moon.
- Let your child use the salt tray to trace what the Moon looks like in the sky.
- **Optional:** take a cell phone photo of the salt drawing so your child can remember what they saw and drew)
- Using the Moon Phase Cards, can your child find a card that matches the shape of the Moon in the sky?
- **Optional:** repeat this activity in about 3 days when the Moon is in the waning quarter (or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter) phase.



The Waning Gibbous Moon

## Where Can You Learn More?

The best way to understand the Moon's phases is to watch how it changes over the course of a month (or several months) and record your observations. Notice where it appears in the sky each day or night, and how its appearance changes from one day to the next. You might want to try the ASP's *Astronomy At Home* activity, [Breakfast Moon](#), and keep a Moon Journal like the characters do in the story.



**Full**



**Gibbous**



**Gibbous**



**Quarter**



Crescent



Crescent



New



Crescent





Crescent



Quarter



Gibbous



Gibbous