

Answer the following questions:

RECALL

1. What is an explanation text?
2. Have you ever written an explanation text? What was it?

LO: HOW TO WRITE A GOOD EXPLANATION TEXT

Some will even answer questions about how the text was written.
Some will answer questions about the text.
Most will summarise the explanation text.
All will read an explanation text.

GUIDED PRACTICE

Today, you will read an example of an explanation text. You will need to answer some questions about the text and about author's intentions and techniques.

Why does the moon change shapes?

One night, I was sitting with Dad in the garden. His arm cloaked around my shoulder.

He knelt down and whispered to me - make a wish - blow it to the moon. The whole garden turned bright silver. A star-soaked cat leaped into my lap. When you look at the moon in the night sky it looks a different shape to a few days before. What is the explanation for this? Here is what is happening.

Moon phases

The first thing to understand is that the moon travels around Earth every 28 days. As the moon moves, you see different parts of the moon reflecting light from the sun. You look at the moon from different angles as it moves around Earth, therefore this makes the shape of the moon you can see look different. These different shapes of the moon are called moon phases.

A new moon

The moon's phases start with a new moon. At this point you can't see the moon at all because the part of the moon that faces Earth is in cold shadowy darkness (there's no sunlight heating the Moon).

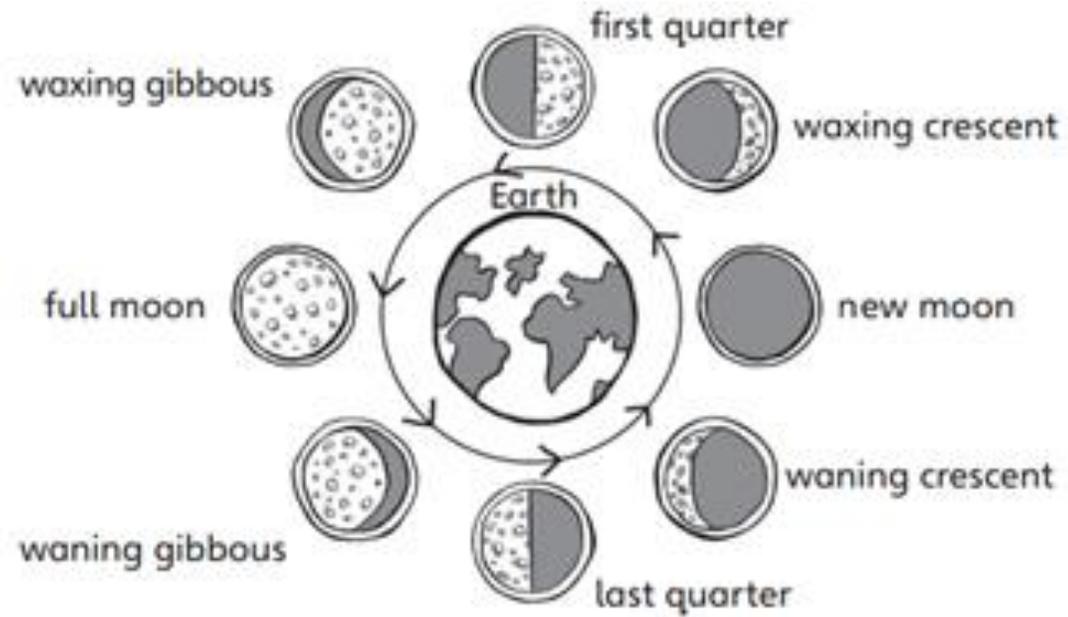
A waxing moon

As the moon orbits the Earth (moves around) you start to see more and more of its bumpy and scarred surface. When the moon is growing night after night it is called a waxing moon. It is a crescent shape. This stage carries on until you can see half of the moon in the night sky. Some even say you can see a cat with a dish on the moon at this time - but I don't know about that! Night after night you see more and more of the moon until after 14 nights there is a full moon (it can't get any bigger). This occurs because you can see a whole side of the moon. This is the moon at its most proud.

A waning moon

After the full moon, the amount of the moon that you can see each night gets smaller and smaller. She begins to go back into her shell. It is a crescent shape again and it is called a waning moon. I sometimes think she's a wailing moon and she is leaving us because she is sad. Twenty-eight days after the new moon you can only see a very small sliver of her in the sky. Finally, the moon starts to travel around Earth again, starting with another new moon.





I especially love this topic because I have a telescope and like to look at the moon and stars in the night sky with my dad. I find the moon fascinating and mysterious but it is also nice to understand why the moon changes shape in the sky.

INTELLIGENT PRACTICE

Read the explanation text "Why does the moon change shapes?" and summarise it.



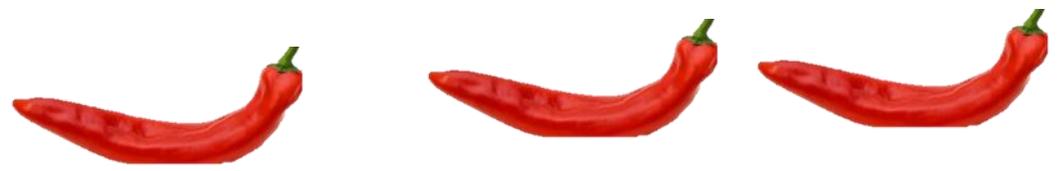
INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



Read the explanation text "Why does the moon change shapes?" and answer the questions.

1. How do you know that the author truly loved his dad?
2. How many weeks does it take the moon to travel around the Earth?
3. What is another name for moon phases?
4. Why can't we see the moon during the "new moon" phase?
5. What shape of the moon tells us that the "waxing" phase is over?
6. How long do we have to wait for the moon to be full?
7. Do you think the author still lives with his dad? Explain your answer

INTELLIGENT PRACTICE



Answer the questions about how the author wrote the explanation text about the shapes of the moon.

1. Why has the writer written this text?
2. What do you like about it?
3. What might you borrow when you write your explanation text?
4. What does the sentence "A star-soaked cat leaped into my lap." mean?
5. How does the writer introduce the main problem of the text?
6. Why did the writer decide to describe moon's darkness as "cold"?
7. How does the writer make sure that the text is clear for the reader?
8. What examples of personification did the author use in the text?
9. Why did the author decide to use personification?