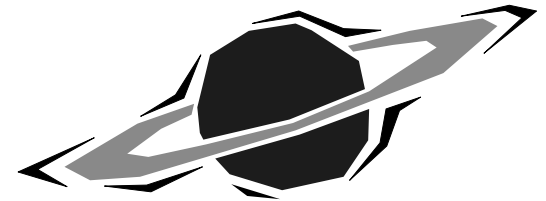


Junior Stargazers . . . Activity #3

# "PHASES OF THE MOON"



**TRY THIS:** Do you know why the Moon seems to change shape? Pretend that your head is the Earth. Set up a light bulb in the middle of the room – it can be a living room lamp with the shade removed. The light bulb is the Sun. Now you need a Moon. You can use Styrofoam balls with tongue depressors inserted in them or a ping pong ball on a golf tee. Hold it between you and the light. The ping pong ball (or Styrofoam ball) will be the Moon. How much of the ball (the Moon) do you see lighted? Now move the ball to your left some. Do you see something that looks like a banana? This is called a Crescent Moon. Move the ball slowly around you and see how many Moon phases you can find! What do you think the Moon will look like tonight?

## **ANSWER THIS:**

- Why is the dark side of the Moon dark?
- Can you make a solar eclipse? A lunar eclipse? What Moon phase do each of these happen?