Moon Phases Lab Questions

1. Candles were once made by dipping a string and a wick repeatedly into melted wax. Each time the candle was dipped, another layer of wax was added to the candle. If waxing describes a building up or adding on, then when would the Moon be waxing?

Go back to your drawings for positions 2 and 4 and start by labeling the Phase Name: "Waxing."

2. When someone is losing weight due to an illness, it is described as waning away. If waning describes getting thinner or smaller, then when would the Moon be waning?

Go back to your drawings for positions 6 and 8 and start by labeling the Phase Name: "Waning."

3. A bread roll that is shaped like a C is called a crescent. When could the phase of the Moon be considered a crescent?

Go back to your drawing and add the word "Crescent" after the words "Waxing" and "Waning" to the Phase Names for positions 2 and 8.

4. During two of the phases, half of the Moon seems to be lit. How much of the Moon is actually lit in the two phases?

Go back to your drawings and label the Phase Name for position 3 "First Quarter" and the Phase Name for position 7 "Third Quarter." Earth, Sun, and Moon System Explore 1 4

5. The ringer of the bells was called the Hunchback of Notre Dame because he had a gibbous lump on his back. If gibbous describes something that is bulging, but not completely round, then at what phase is the Moon described as gibbous?

Go back to your drawing and add the word "Gibbous" after the words "Waxing" and "Waning" to the Phase Names for positions 4 and 6.

6. It is rumored that when the bright moonlight reflected from the Sun fills the sky, people act in an odd or loony manner. What is the name of this phase of the Moon?

Go back to your drawings and label the Phase Name for position 5 "Full Moon."

7. One expression that refers to starting over is to begin with a clean slate. What phase in your drawings represents the Moon as a clean slate?

Go back to your drawing and label the Phase Name for position 1 "New Moon."