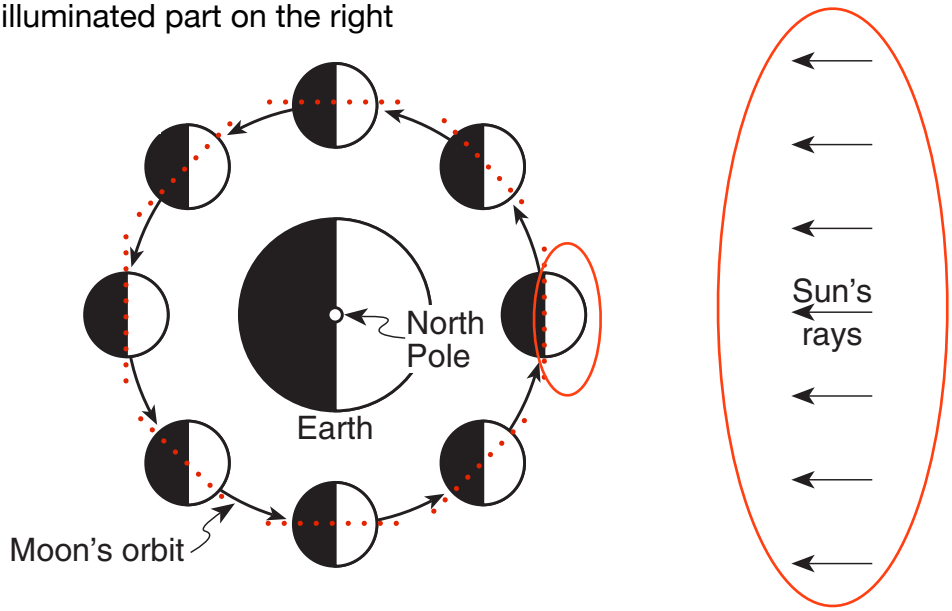
THE MOON PHASES

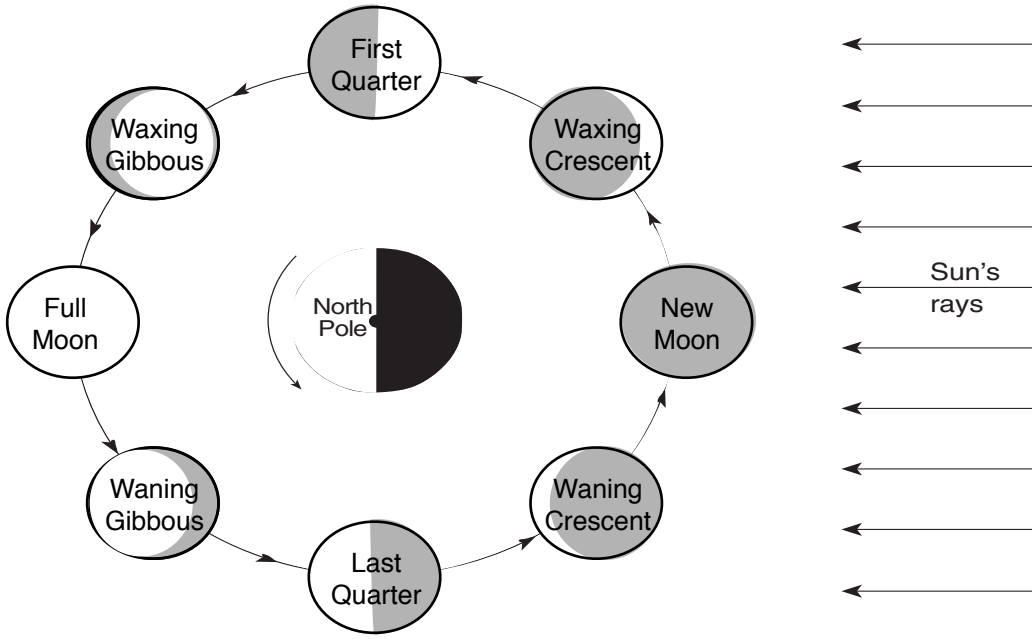
We only see the part of the moon that is illuminated by the Sun.

In the diagram below we see that the sun is on the right, and every moon position shows the illuminated part on the right



As the moon revolves around the Earth, we see different amounts of that illuminated moon

Sometimes none of the lit part faces the Earth (New moon)
and other times all of the lit part faces the Earth (Full moon)

The Moon moves **counterclockwise**. As the moon moves around (from New to Full) we see more and more (the moon is waxing) and then as it continues (from Full back to New) we see less and less (the moon is waning). The diagram below shows the phase of the moon in white.

Waxing = illuminated on the right
Waning = illuminated on the left