

## Describing the Causes for Lunar Phases

Ms. Brunello asked her 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, “Why does the Moon have changing phases?” Her students gave a variety of responses.



- Holden said, “The Moon is in different positions in the sky.”
- Juanita said, “The Moon has changing phases because it revolves around the Earth and from the Earth's perspective different parts of the illuminated surface are visible.”
- Jada said, “Because as the Moon revolves around the Earth, the amount of light it reflects changes.”
- Nina said, “The Moon is orbiting the Earth and we can view the illuminated parts at different times each month.”
- Patrick said, “As the Moon revolves around the Earth the light reflects differently off the Moon, based on the angle.”

Whose answer was the best, most complete response? Why?

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## Motions of the Moon

Ms. Brunello asked her 8th grade class, "Which motions cause the lunar phases we see?" Her students gave a variety of responses.

- Jaden said, "The Moon phases happen due to the Earth's rotation and the Moon and Sun's revolution."
- Sophia said, "The Earth's revolution around the Sun and the Moon's revolution around the Earth and the position of the viewer on Earth."
- Thomas said, "You see different sides of the Moon as it revolves."
- Steve said, "The Moon revolves around the Earth and it takes about 28 days."
- Marisa said, "As the Moon rotates and revolves, we see different sides of the Moon."

Whose answer was the best? Why?

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