

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

The Moon – *Orbit and Lunar Phases* Study Guide
Astronomy



Nerd Words:

1. Synchronous Rotation –
2. Synodic Period –
3. Angular Size –
4. Waxing –
5. Waning –
6. Crescent –
7. Gibbous –
8. Sidereal Period -

Review:

1. What variation does the Moon have when it comes to angular size and what causes this?
2. How far is the Moon from Earth on average? Closest? Farthest? Explain how we can determine this.
3. What does “face-locked” mean and why do we describe the Moon that way?
4. Explain the extent of the Moon “wobble” that occurs and what degree tilt(s) this results in.

5. How long is the synodic period in comparison to the sidereal? What's the difference between the two?

6. What is the difference between waxing and waning and how can you tell just by simply looking at the Moon?

7. What are the alignments between the Sun, Earth, and Moon during a full, new, and quarter Moon? Draw a diagram for each to help explain your answer.

8. How does our view of the Moon's movement throughout the sky change in 24 hours? What causes this? Explain.

9. Draw a diagram to show how the synodic period is longer than the sidereal and explain it in complete sentences.