**6.E.1.1 Study Guide – Option #2**

**Motions of the Moon**

**a. Moon’s revolution around Earth**

i. Moon completes one revolution in 27.3 days

ii. Revolution causes moon phases

**b. Moon’s rotation on its axis**

i. Moon completes one rotation in 27.3 days

 **c. You always see the same side of the moon because the moon’s periods of rotation and revolution are almost equal.**  This means that the time it takes the moon to orbit the Earth is almost the same as the time it takes to rotate once, causing humans to always see the same side of the moon from Earth.

**Moon phases**

**a. Moon phase: the changing appearance of the moon as seen from Earth**

i. One full cycle of moon phases = 29.5 days or about 1 month.

ii.  The moon phase cycle as seen from Earth takes a little bit longer than the moon’s revolution because while the moon is orbiting the Earth, the Earth is constantly moving because it is orbiting the sun.  The Moon therefore travels slightly more than 360° to get from one new moon to the next. Thus the lunar month is longer.



## Tides

The word “tides” is a generic term used to define the alternating rise and fall in sea level with respect to the land, produced by the gravitational attraction of the moon and the sun. To a much smaller extent, tides also occur in large lakes, the atmosphere, and within the solid crust of the earth, acted upon by these same gravitational forces of the moon and sun.



## What are Lunar Tides

Tides are created because the Earth and the moon are attracted to each other, just like magnets are attracted to each other. The moon tries to pull at anything on the Earth to bring it closer. But, the Earth is able to hold onto everything except the water. Since the water is always moving, the Earth cannot hold onto it, and the moon is able to pull at it. Each day, there are two high tides and two low tides. The ocean is constantly moving from high tide to low tide, and then back to high tide. There is about 12 hours and 25 minutes between the two high tides. Tides are the periodic rise and falling of large bodies of water. Winds and currents move the surface water causing waves. The gravitational attraction of the moon causes the oceans to bulge out in the direction of the moon. Another bulge occurs on the opposite side, since the Earth is also being pulled toward the moon (and away from the water on the far side). Ocean levels fluctuate daily as the sun, moon and earth interact. As the moon travels around the earth and as they, together, travel around the sun, the combined gravitational forces cause the world’s oceans to rise and fall. Since the earth is rotating while this is happening, two tides occur each day.

**Spring tides** occur during the New Moon and Full Moon phases, when the Sun, Earth, and Moon are lined up in a straight line (180 degrees).

[](https://calaski.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/spring-tides.gif)

**Neap tides** occur during the 1st quarter and 3rd quarter moon phases, when the Sun, Earth, and Moon create a right angle (90 degrees).

## neap tides

## Eclipses:

### Lunar Eclipse

i. Earth is between the sun and moon

ii. Earth’s shadow is cast on the moon

iii. Moon appears red due to light from the sun bending through the Earth’s atmosphere

iv. Occurs during a full moon phase

vi. Everyone on the nighttime side of Earth can see the lunar eclipse

vii.If the moon falls into the umbra of the shadow, there is a total lunar eclipse

viii. If the moon falls into the penumbra of the shadow, there is a partial lunar eclipse



**Solar Eclipse**

i. Moon is between the Sun and Earth

ii. Moon’s shadow is cast on Earth

iii. Occurs during a new moon phase

iv. Only seen during the day

v. Anyone in the umbra of the shadow sees a total solar eclipse

vi. Anyone in the penumbra of the shadow sees a partial solar eclipse

vii. Anyone outside the shadow sees NO eclipse



**Seasons:**

The tilt of the Earth (23.5 degrees) causes the sun to hit the Earth at different angles causing uneven heating (seasons).  Look at the diagram below showing how on the vernal (spring) and autumnal (fall) equinoxes, the sunlight strikes the equator at a 90 degree angle and concentrates the sun’s heat energy in a small surface area.  The farther north (or south) you get from the equator, the sunlight strikes Earth at angles less than 90 degrees (45 degrees at the tropics and 30 degrees at the arctic circle) which distributes the sun’s heat energy over a larger surface area.

Carefully observe the angle of sunlight and size of surface area:



As the Earth revolves (orbits) the sun, different parts of the Earth receive the direct sunlight.  In the northern hemisphere, on summer solstice (June 21/22) the sun’s direct rays strike the Tropic of Capricorn and the northern hemisphere experiences summer. The norther hemisphere also experience the longest daylight hours at this time.  On winter solstice in the northern hemisphere (December 21/22), the sun’s direct rays strike the Tropic of Capricorn and the northern hemisphere experiences winter (due to lower angle sunlight striking in the north).  The norther hemisphere experiences the shortest daylight hours at this time.

On the equinoxes, direct sunlight strikes the equator and both hemispheres experience spring or fall.

