



# Moon Search

Iris loves the book *Goodnight Moon*, by Margaret Wise Brown. In the story, the full moon is coming up just as the child goes to bed.

Iris likes to say “goodnight moon,” when she sees the full moon.

She also sees a face in the moon. Do you see a face in this picture of the moon?

Iris is friends with her neighbor, Yuki, who is from Japan. Iris was so surprised to learn that in Japan, people see a rabbit in the moon!



The rabbit is making a special treat called mochi. You make mochi by pounding rice into a sticky paste with a wooden tool.

It was a new idea to Iris that people in different places have such different traditions about the moon. 📱

(Source: <http://01.shittoku-navi.jp/?p=2988> )

Learning about the rabbit in the moon made Iris curious. She looked at this picture to learn more about what people around the world see in the moon:



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/content/dam/news/photos/000/786/78624.jpg>

Iris wants to try to see all of the pictures in the moon, but she has a problem. It is May 22, 2020 and the moon can not be seen! It is a *new moon!* That means the sunny side of the moon is pointing away from the earth and we can't see it. **Iris will have to be patient and wait two whole weeks to see a big, round, full moon.** 📱



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To make waiting more fun, Iris decides to make a game of finding the moon as soon as it can be seen again. She asks her uncle how long it will take. Uncle says, "Be kind to yourself if you can't see the new moon very soon. Maybe there are buildings or houses in the way, the weather might be cloudy or there are too many lights." Uncle says these four things are always true about the new moon:

- It will probably take two to four days to see the moon after the day it is "new."
- When it first shows it will be just a tiny crescent, like a fingernail, so Iris will have to look carefully.
- It will be in the sky during the day, but it will be easiest to see in the evening when it is starting to get dark.

This is true for the moon no matter what phase it is:

- Just like the sun, the moon will come up in the Eastern sky and go down in the West. Every day the moon comes up later and goes down later.

You and your family could play the moon search game with Iris. Look for the moon everyday after the *new moon*, and see how soon you can find it.

***While you play, be careful not to look at the sun!***