How to Sight the Moon

Prepared by

Central Hilal Committee

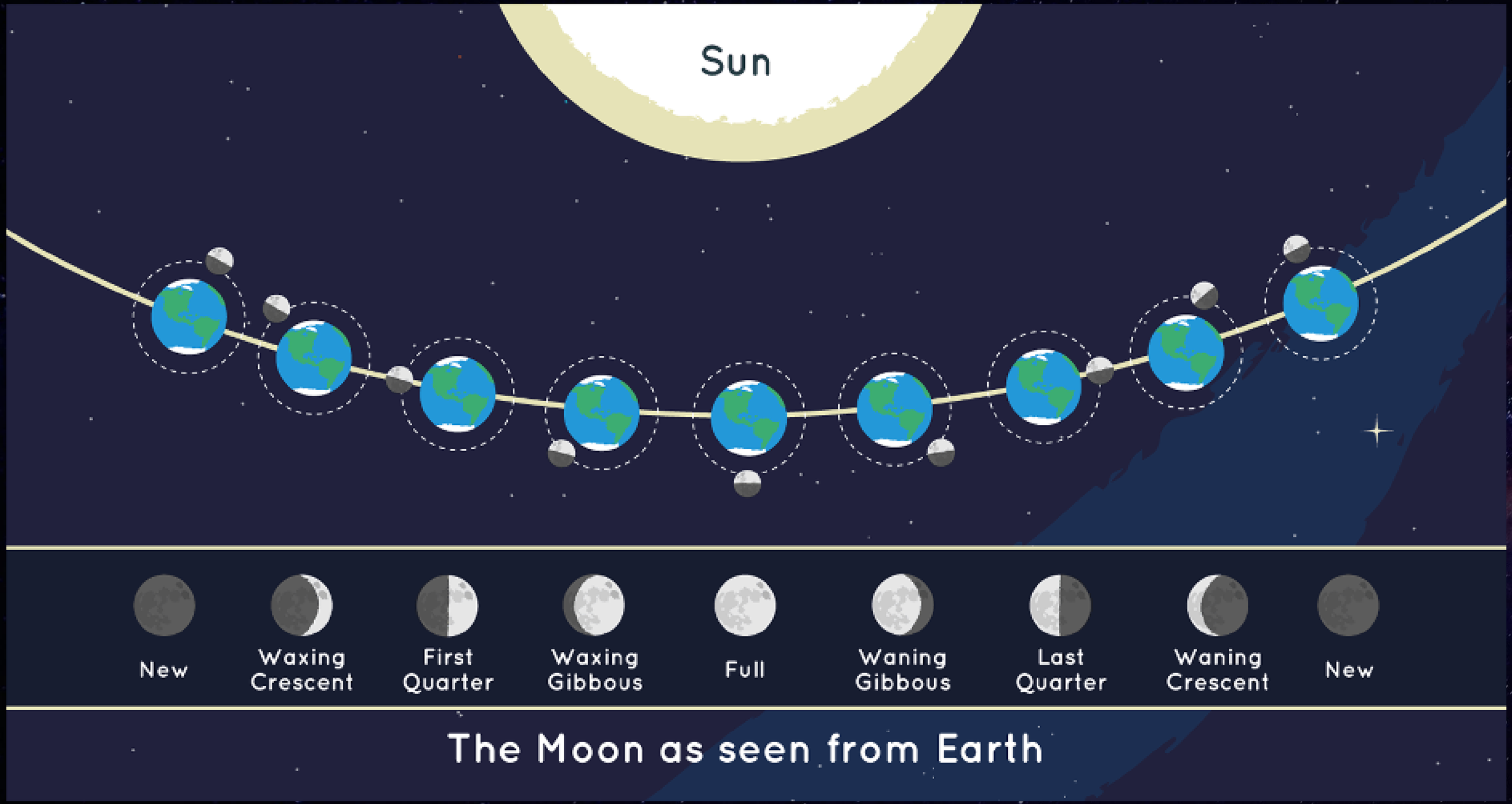
The Moon

- The Moon lunar phase cycle completes in about 29.5 days
- The time it takes for the Moon to rotate once on its axis is equal to the time it takes for the Moon to orbit once around Earth. Due to this synchronous rotation, the same side of the Moon always faces our planet.
- The Moon does not produce any light of its own, rather it is visible by reflected light from the sun. The varying angles of sunlight reflecting off its surface as it orbits earth result in the different phases we see.

THE EIGHT PHASES

- These phases—New Moon, Waxing Crescent, First Quarter, Waxing Gibbous, Full Moon, Waning Gibbous, Last Quarter, and Waning Crescent—change how the shape of the Moon looks like to us from Earth.

- On the 29th day of the lunar month, the Moon is typically just past the New Moon phase. At this point, it can appear quite small because it reflects only a small portion of the Sun's light. As time (and the age of the Moon) progresses from the New Moon toward the sunset on the 29th, the Moon becomes larger and more visible, making it easier to spot. The older the Moon, the easier it is to spot.



The Moon as seen from Earth

GUIDELINES FOR SIGHTING

1 Preparation

Location: **Choose a vantage point with an unobstructed view of the western horizon**

Timing: **Begin your searching for the Moon shortly after sunset when the crescent Moon is most likely to be visible**

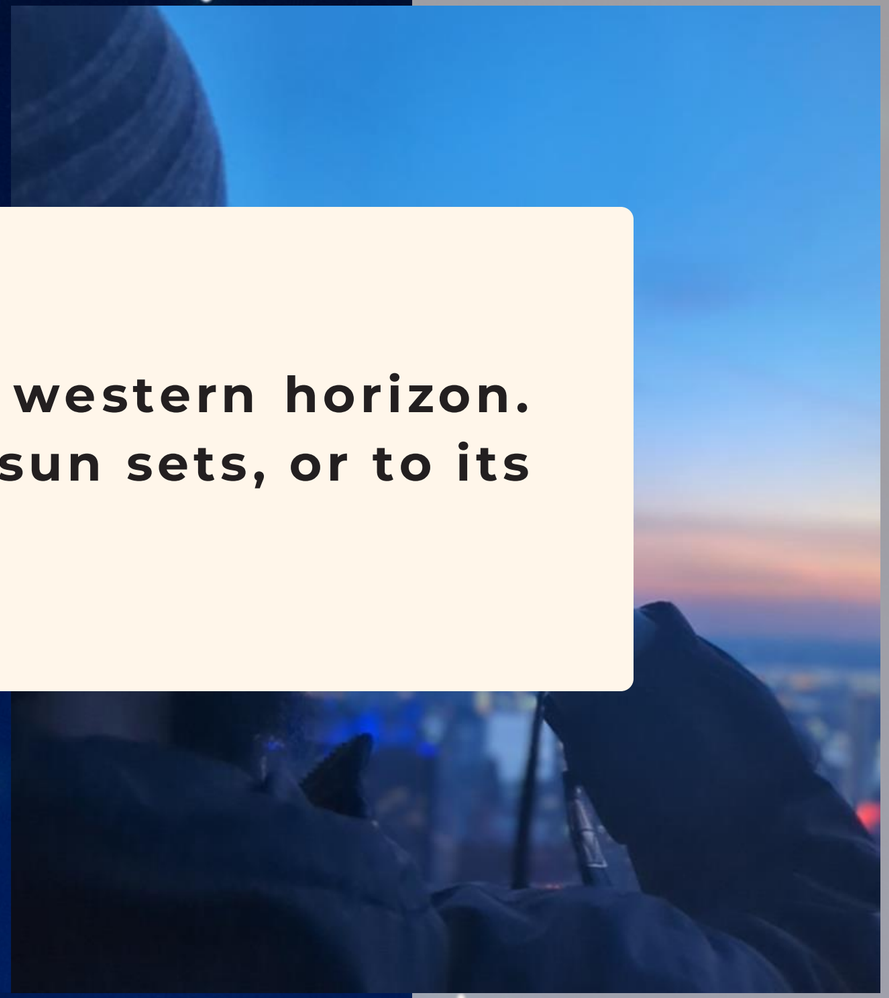
CHC also sends a Best Time to Sight the Moon chart for the various locations which make regular moonsighting efforts

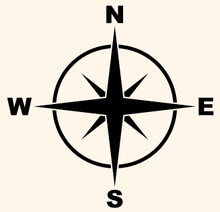
GUIDELINES FOR SIGHTING

A chart with the Best times to sight is prepared monthly by CHC. This chart makes it simple for the unexperienced sighter who wants to know the best time to sight the Moon without all the extra details.

GUIDELINES FOR SIGHTING

2 Observation





Direction: **Look in the direction of the western horizon. The moon could be located where the sun sets, or to its left, or right.**

GUIDELINES FOR SIGHTING

Note the Following:

1. LOCATION

2. EXACT TIME

3. Number of people.
How many saw it?

4. Was the horizon clear, cloudy, or partly cloudy?

5. Where in the sky was the crescent, in relation to the sunset?

6. How did the crescent look?

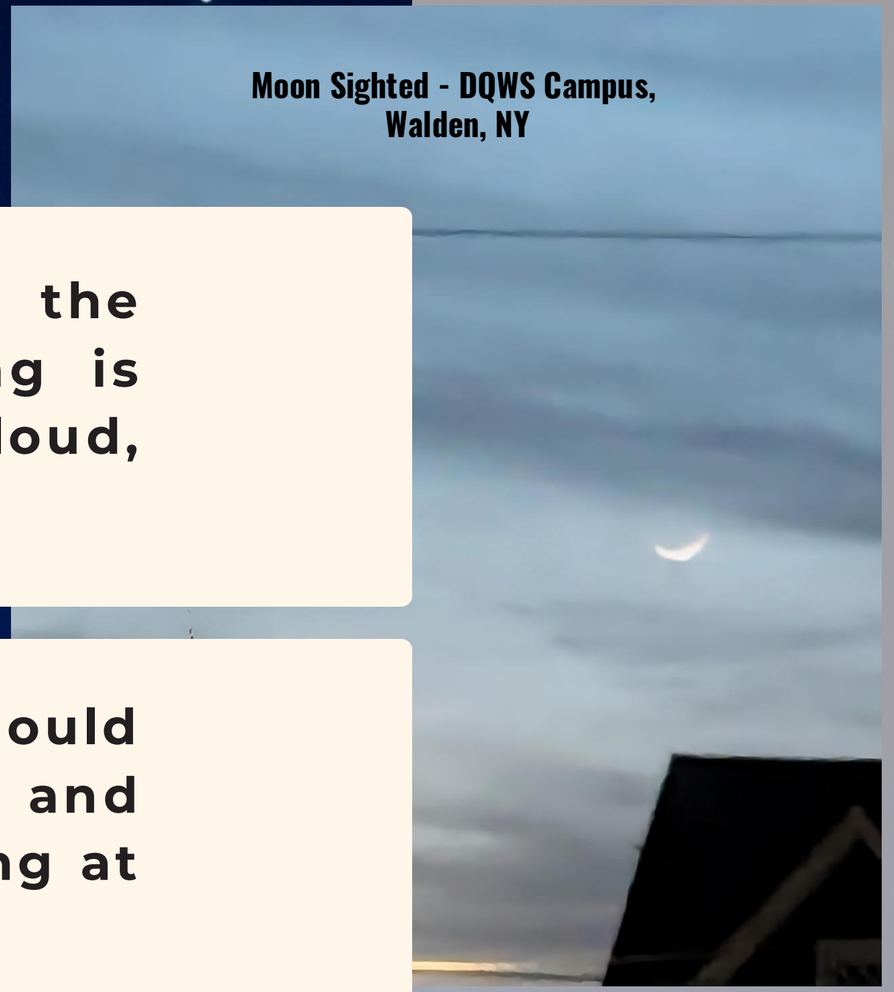
7. Go to your local Imam/CHC Member and complete the required testimony (Shahadah) procedures

GUIDELINES FOR SIGHTING

3 Identification

Confirm the Moon: **If you sight the crescent, verify what you are seeing is indeed the crescent Moon and not a cloud, vapor trail of an airplane, or star.**

Check Features: **The crescent Moon should have a concave shape facing the left and appear as a thin arc. (generally starting at 3 o’clock and ending at 9 o’clock)**

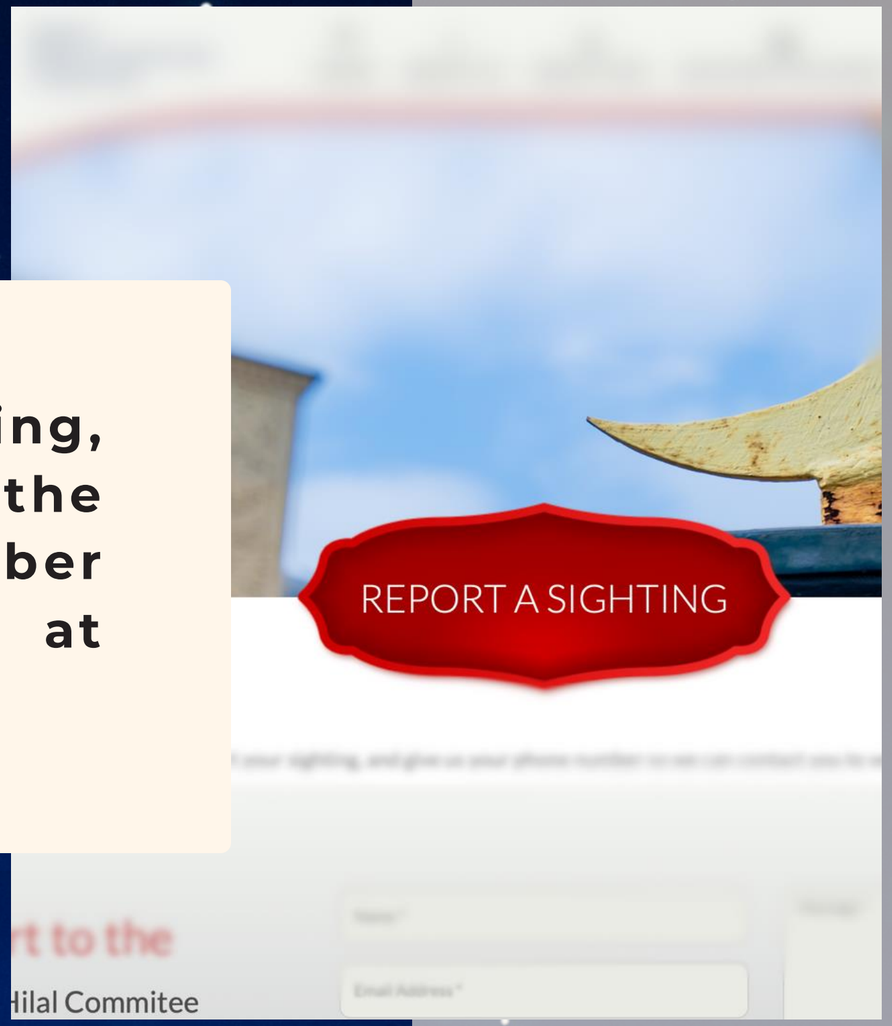


Moon Sighted - DQWS Campus, Walden, NY

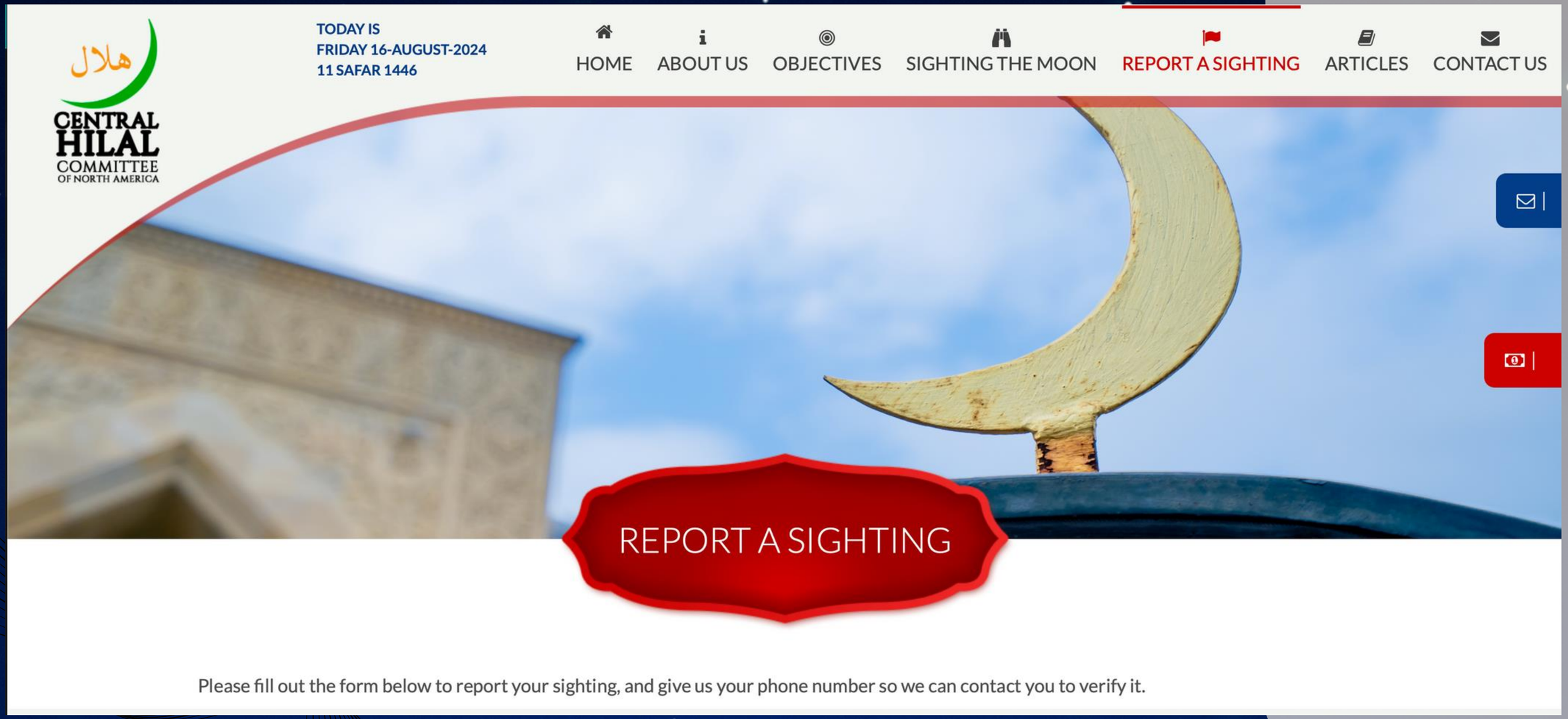
GUIDELINES FOR SIGHTING

4 Reporting

Submit Findings: **Report your sighting, whether positive or negative, to the local Central Hilal Committee member or directly to the CHC email at info@hilalcommittee.org.**



GUIDELINES FOR SIGHTING



GUIDELINES FOR SIGHTING

6 Verification By CHC

Cross-Check: **The Central Hilal Committee will verify reports from sub-committees to confirm the Moon sighting and determine its validity. This step is explained in another presentation.**

7 FACTORS TO EASILY SIGHT THE MOON

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Seven Important Factors That Affect Crescent Visibility

#1 - Moon Age

The time that has passed since the birth of the moon.

Birth of New Moon
Moon is not visible.

As the moon gets older with the passage of time, **the moon becomes more and more visible.**

The older the moon, the more visible it is.

IDEALLY VISIBLE AT: 18 hours old

#2 - Altitude

The height of the moon above the horizon.

The higher the moon, the more visible it is.

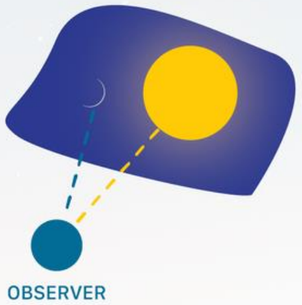
IDEALLY VISIBLE AT:
8+ degrees

#3 - Elongation

The separation between sun and moon.

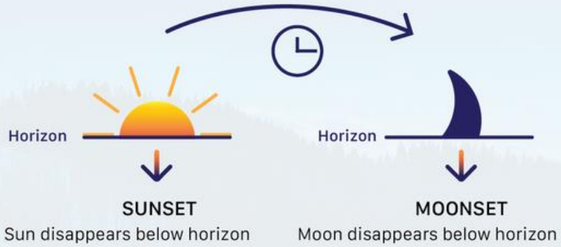
The more distance there is, the easier it is to sight.

IDEALLY VISIBLE AT:
10+ degrees



#4 - Lag Time

The time between sunset and moonset.



SUNSET
Sun disappears below horizon

MOONSET
Moon disappears below horizon

The moon is above the horizon during this time.

IDEALLY VISIBLE AT: 45 minutes

#5 - Weather

Sky conditions affect moon visibility.

IDEALLY VISIBLE WHEN:
the Western horizon is clear

#6 - Altitude of Observer

The higher a person ascends, the more transparent the sky is, making the moon easier to sight.

#7 - Actual Sighters

If all the above factors are positive, but no one goes out to sight, the moon can never be seen!

Revive the Forgotten Sunnah, Unite the Muslim Ummah

CENTRAL HILAL COMMITTEE OF NORTH AMERICA

HOW TO SIGHT THE MOON

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Seven Important Factors for Hilal Visibility

#1 - Moon Age

The time that has passed since the birth of the moon (conjunction).

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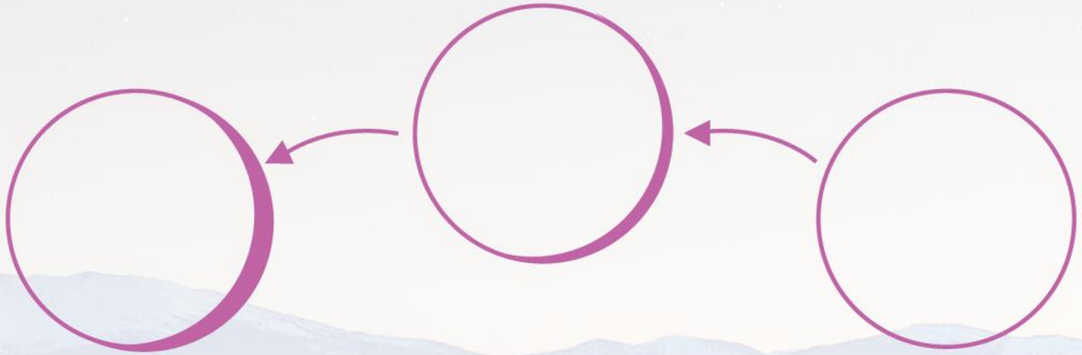
The older the moon, the more visible it is.

IDEALLY VISIBLE AT:

18 hours old



Birth of New Moon
Moon is not visible.

As the moon gets older with the passage of time,
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Seven Important Factors for Hilal Visibility

#2 - Altitude

The height of the moon above the horizon.

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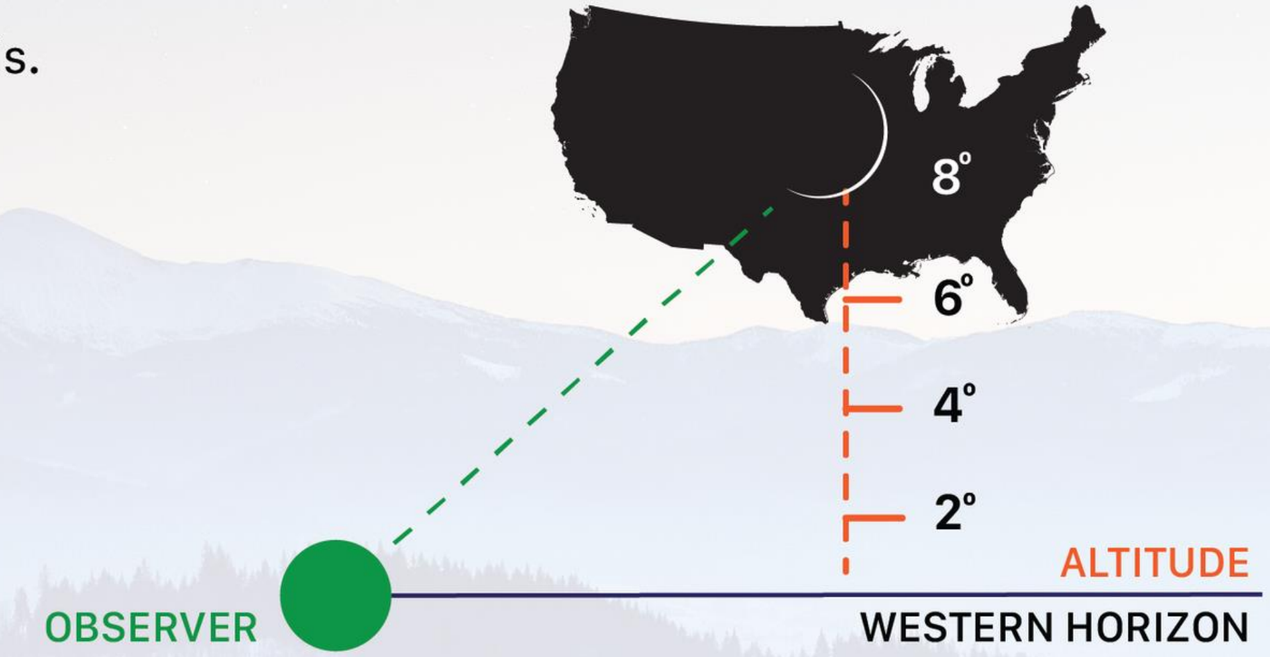
The higher the moon, the more visible it is.

IDEALLY VISIBLE AT:

8+ degrees



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Seven Important Factors for Hilal Visibility

#3 - Elongation

The angular separation between the sun and moon from the perspective of the observer.

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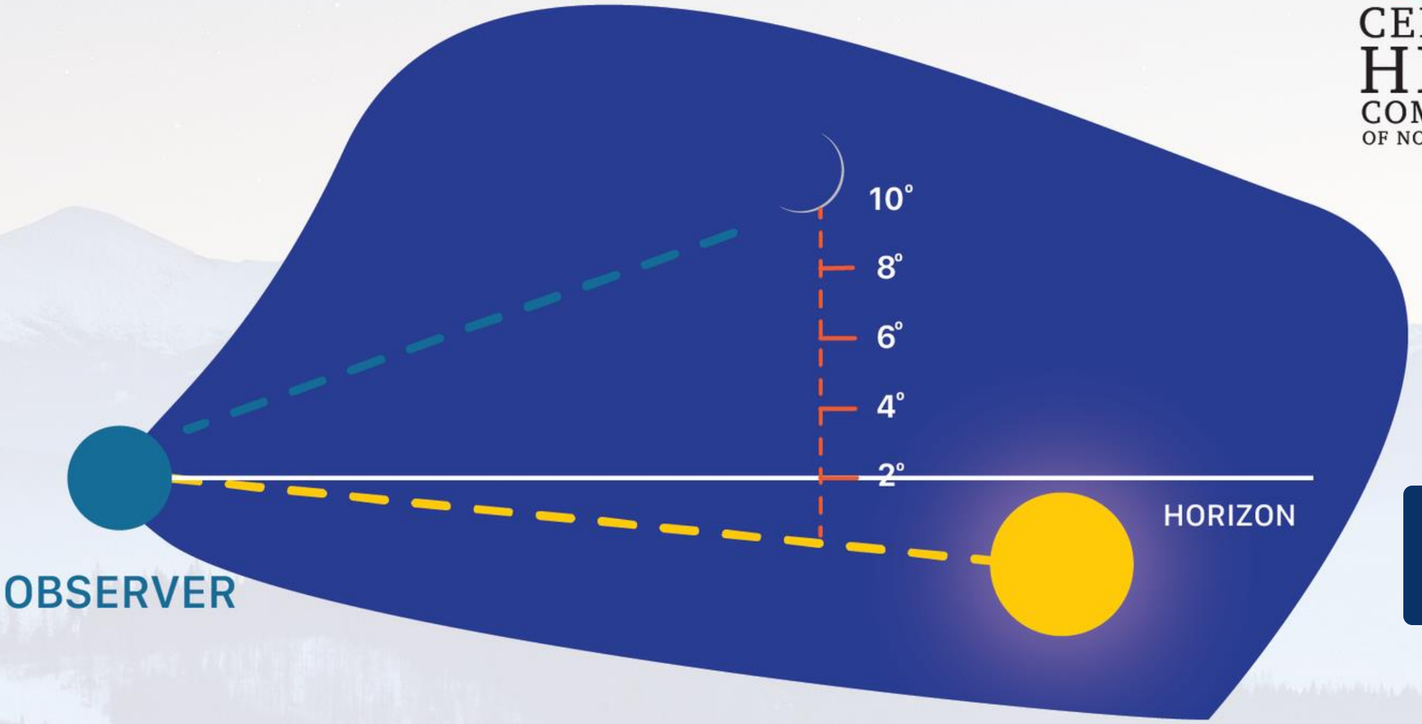
The more distance there is, the easier it is to sight.

IDEALLY VISIBLE AT:

10+ degrees



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Seven Important Factors for Hilal Visibility

#4 - Lag Time

The time between sunset and moonset.

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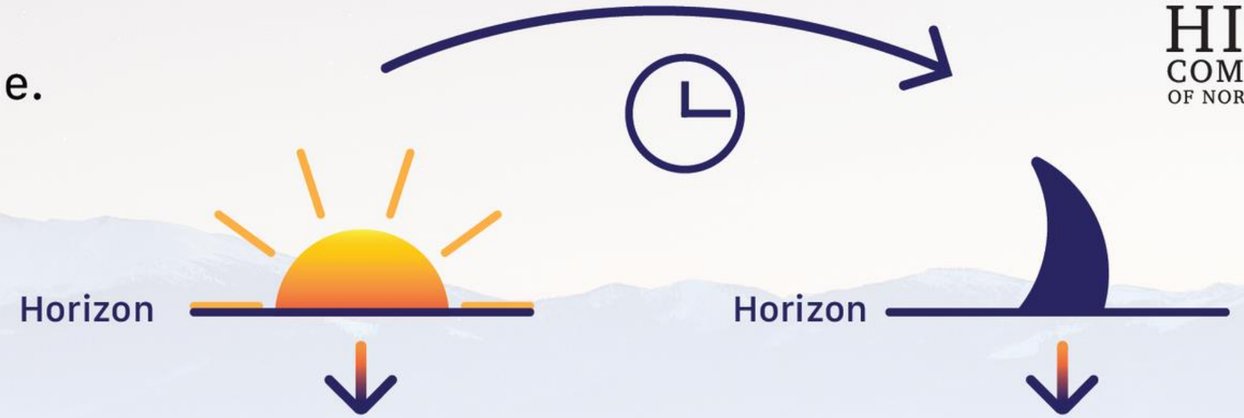
The moon is above the horizon during this time.

IDEALLY VISIBLE AT:

45 minutes



SUNSET
Sun disappears below horizon

MOONSET
Moon disappears below horizon

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Seven Important Factors for Hilal Visibility

#5 - Weather

Sky conditions affect moon visibility.

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IDEALLY VISIBLE WHEN:

the Western horizon is clear

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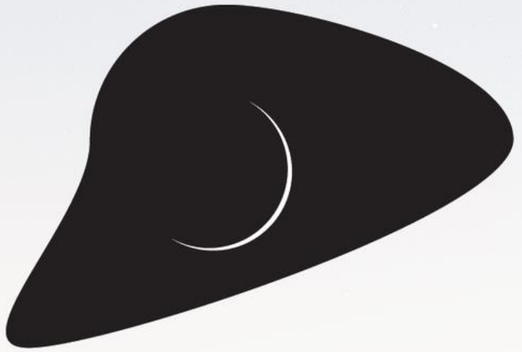
Seven Important Factors for Hilal Visibility

#6 - Altitude of Observer

The higher a person ascends, the more transparent the sky is, making the moon easier to sight.



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Clouds

Pollution

Not visible at low altitudes

ALTITUDE OF OBSERVER

SEVEN FACTORS

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"CHC Correspondence with USNO:
In addition to the altitude of the moon, the altitude of the observer also affects visibility. In general, the higher you are in the atmosphere, the more transparent the sky should be since you are looking through less air, water, vapor, and suspended dust."

-U.S. Naval Observatory, 2022

6

ALTITUDE OF OBSERVER

SEVEN FACTORS

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Put Ibarat that it is permissible to go on an altitude to sight

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Seven Important Factors for Hilal Visibility

#7 - Actual Sighters

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If all the above factors are positive, but no one goes out to sight, the moon can never be seen!

Revive the Sunnah, Unite the Ummah

If all the above factors are positive, but no one goes out to sight, the moon can never be seen!

ACTUAL SIGHTERS

SEVEN FACTORS

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- This is the most important factor. Therefore, it is essential to revive this effort and encourage family and friends to look for the Hilal!
- Revive the Sunnah, Unite the Ummah!

7