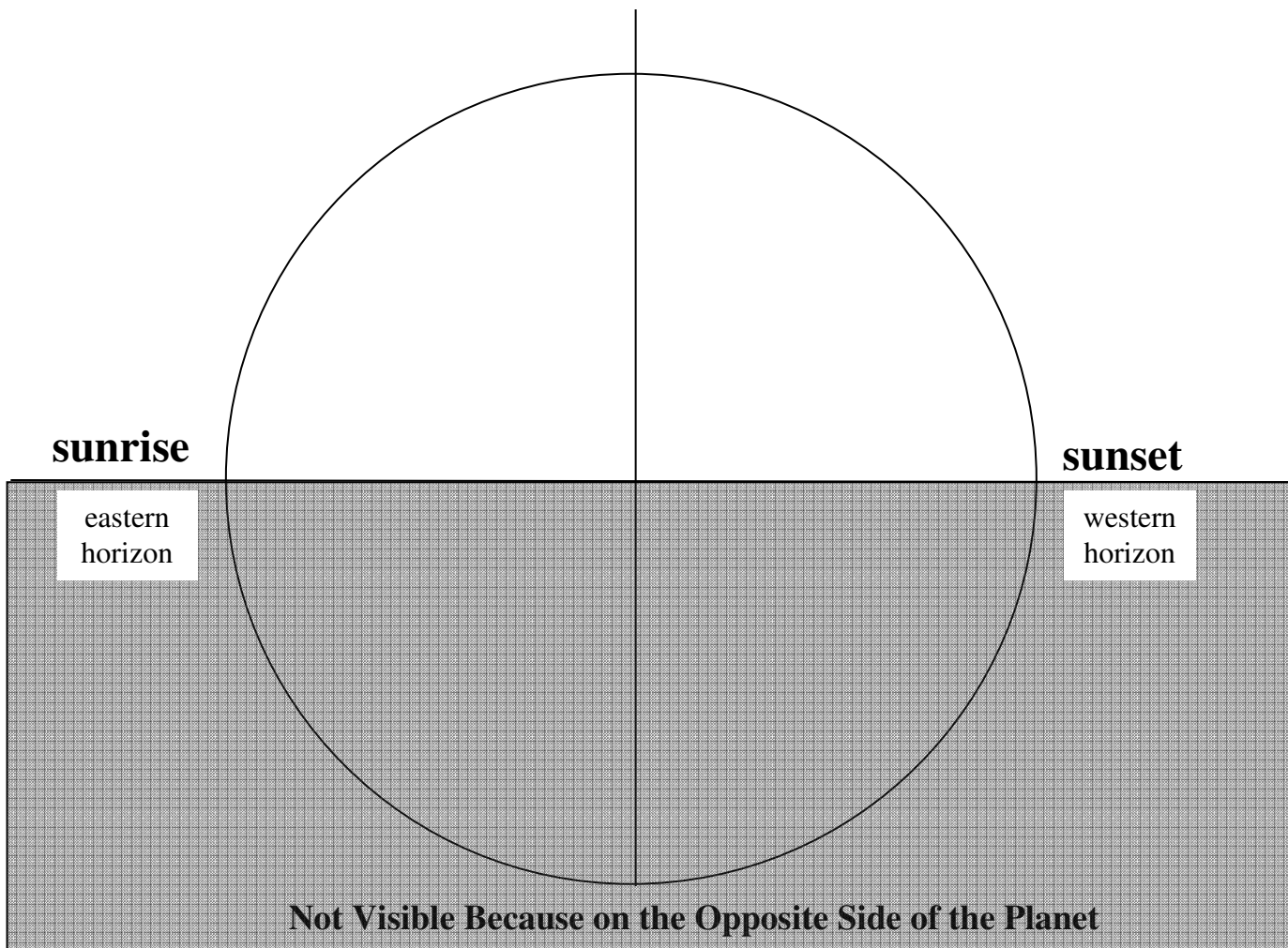


Lunar Phase Wheel

Time of day is determined by sun position. Objects above the horizon are visible in the sky. Objects below the horizon are not. To determine the position of the moon in the sky at a particular time of day, select a phase in the top wheel window. Move the lower wheel so that the sun indicates the time of day of interest. An object passes the eastern horizon to rise and the western horizon to set due to the rotation of the Earth. By rotating the two wheels in this model together you can determine where in the sky you would see a specific phase of the moon at a specific time of day or night.

To show how the position of the moon changes throughout the course of its 29.5 day phase cycle when viewed at a specific time of day, leave the sun in the desired position to indicate time, and rotate the top wheel counterclockwise (the direction of the lunar orbit) allowing each phase to show successively in the window. The light portion of the moon is the visible part of the dayside of the moon and is illuminated by the sun. Notice how the orientation of a quarter or crescent moon changes with respect to the horizon as the Earth rotates.

What I Can See (Day or Night)



Celestial objects below the horizon are not visible.