

Key Information

The Sun, Earth and Moon are spherical. The planets in the solar system orbit the sun.

The Sun is a star at the centre of our solar system, and it has 8 planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

There are also asteroids, meteoroids and comets in the Solar System. The Solar System is in a galaxy called the Milky Way. The galaxy is in the universe.

The Moon takes 28 days to orbit the Earth. The Moon spins once on its axis every time it orbits Earth. This means that we only see one side of the Moon.

The Moon has different phases depending on where it is in its orbit. The Moon's gravity causes high and low tides.

The Earth spins on its own axis in 24 hours and orbits the Sun in 365.25 days.

Earth's rotation creates day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky.

It is the Earth's tilt that causes the seasons. Previously people thought that the other heavenly bodies orbited the Earth.

Earth and Space Knowledge Organiser



Key Vocabulary

axis	An imaginary line through the middle of something.
asteroid	A rock that orbits the Sun in a belt between Mars and Jupiter.
orbit	The curved path in Space that is followed by an object going around a planet, moon or star.
planet	A large, round object in Space that moves around a star.
Sphere	An object that is round in shape like a ball.
Solar System	The sun and all the planets that go around it.
Gravity	The force that causes things to drop to the ground.
galaxy	An extremely large group of planets and stars. Our galaxy is called the Milky way.

Key Questions

Which planets are in our solar system?

What causes night and day?

Why is a year 365 days long?

Why do we have months?

What did people used to think about the solar system?

Visiting Space

The first animal in space was a dog named Laika in 1957.

The first man in space was Yuri Gagarin in 1961

The first woman in space was Valentina Tereshkova in 1963

The first man on the moon was Neil Armstrong in 1969

What you should already know

We have four seasons (autumn, winter, summer and spring).

The sun is a source of light, but the moon is not.

Know that a shadow is caused when an object blocks light from passing through it.