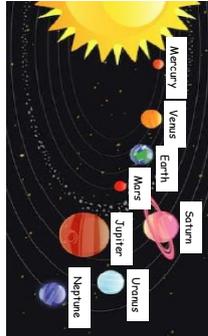
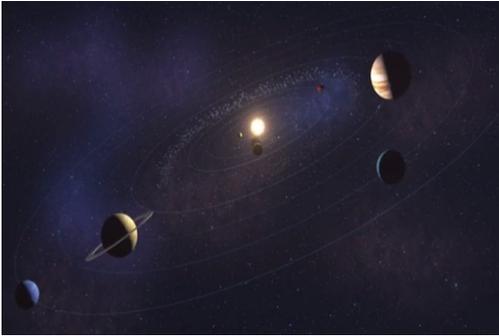


Year 5: Earth and Space

Key Learning

Our Solar System



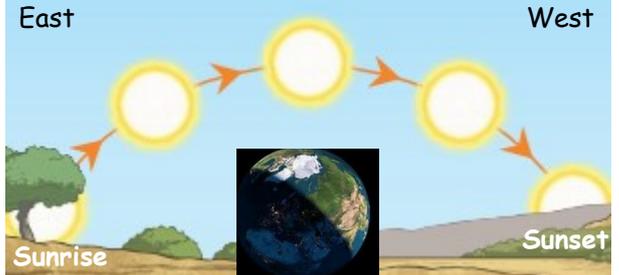
The sun is a star at the centre of our Solar System. There are 8 planets in our Solar System, including Earth. The planets all travel around the sun in their own fixed orbits. Earth takes $365\frac{1}{4}$ days to orbit around the sun. That is why we have a leap year every 4 years which is when we have an extra day in February.

The largest planet in our Solar System is Jupiter and the smallest is Mercury.



The Moon orbits Earth in an oval shaped path while spinning on its axis. At various times in a month, the moon appears to be different shapes. This is because as the Moon rotates round Earth, the sun lights up different parts.

Night and Day



As the Earth orbits the Sun, it rotates meaning half of the Earth is facing the Sun whilst the other half is facing away.

The part of the Earth facing the Sun will experience day and the part facing away will experience night. It takes 24 hours for the Earth to rotate on its axis.

The Sun does not move, but it is the Earth's movement that makes the Sun appear to rise in the morning from the east and set in the evening in the west.

Key Vocabulary

Sun	A star at the centre of our solar system.
Moon	A natural satellite of a planet. The Earth's moon orbits just Earth. It is visible (mainly at night) because of reflected light from the sun.
Satellite	Any object in space that orbits something else.
Orbit	The curved path of an object in space around a star, planet or moon.
Planet	A spherical body that orbits a star. A planet must be big enough that its gravity clears away any objects of a similar size near its orbit.
Star	An astronomical body of a glowing ball of gas. A star produces its own energy.
Solar system	A series of planets which orbits a star. In our solar system the star the planets orbit is the sun.
Axis	An imaginary line that a body rotates around. E.g. Earth's axis (imaginary line) runs from the North Pole to the South Pole.
Heliocentric model	The structure of the solar system where the planets orbit around the Sun.
Geocentric model	A belief people had, many years ago, that the planets and the sun all moved around Earth.