

KEY VOCABULARY

Planet Large natural objects that orbit around, stars. Eight planets orbit the star called the Sun. In order from the closest to the Sun, these planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

Star A burning mass of gas that makes heat and light energy (e.g. the sun).

Gravity The force that attracts an object towards a larger object.

Solar system A star with objects (such as planets) orbiting it.

Orbit A curved path of a planet or satellite around an object.

Satellite An object either natural (moon) or man-made that orbits around a planet.

NASA The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a US agency responsible for the exploration and study of space.

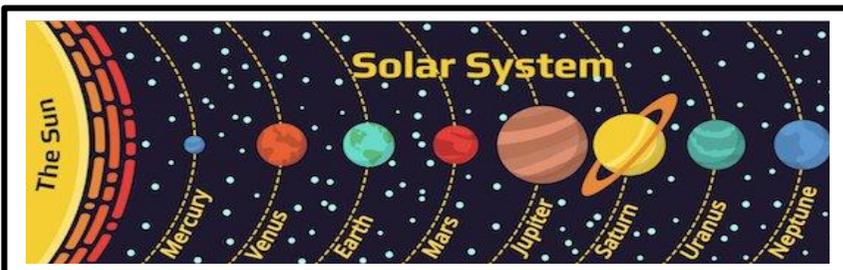
Universe All of space and everything in it.

Astronomy The study of the Universe and everything in it, including planets, stars, galaxies, comets and black holes.

Black hole A place in space where gravity pulls so much that even light cannot get out.

Comets Lumps of ice, dust, and rock that orbit the Sun.

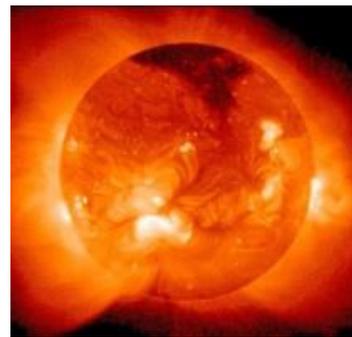
Asteroid Small bodies that orbit the Sun. Made of rock and metal. Asteroids are similar to comets but do not have a visible coma (fuzzy outline and tail) like comets do.



Etwall Primary School

Earth and Space

Year 5/6



The Sun is a star found at the centre of the Solar System. Light from the Sun reaches Earth in around 8 minutes. A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon is between the Sun and the Earth.

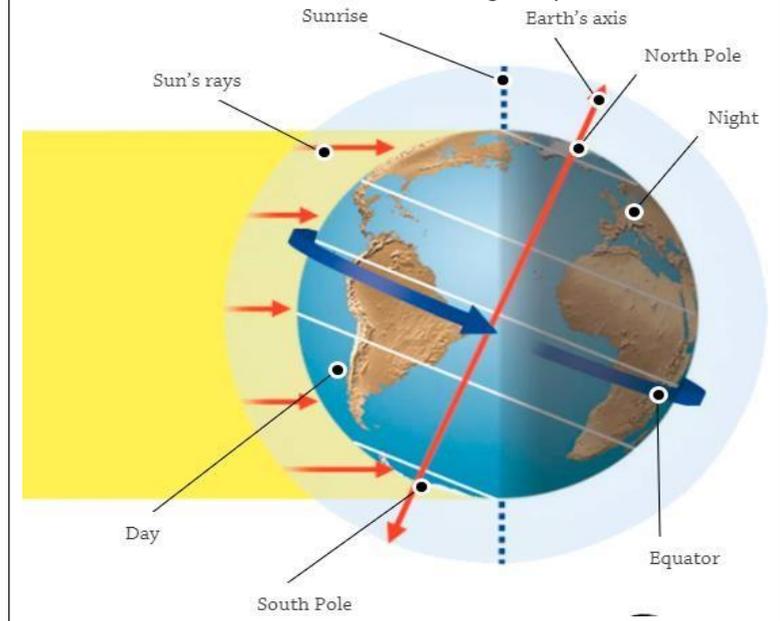


N. Copernicus (1473 – 1543) was an astronomer. He is famous for his main idea that our world is heliocentric (helios = sun). His theory was that the sun is in the middle of the solar system, and the planets go around it.

THE EARTH and THE MOON

The moon orbits Earth whilst it spins on its axis. At different times in the month, the moon appears to be different shapes, this is because the sun lights up different parts of the moon as it moves around the Earth. From Earth we see the Moon grow from a thin crescent to a full moon and then shrink back to a thin crescent again before vanishing for a few days.

DAY and NIGHT - Earth rotates (spins) on its axis, it does a full spin once every 24 hours, which is our day and night. Daytime occurs when the side of the Earth is facing the sun and night occurs when the side of the Earth is facing away from the sun.



Phases of the Moon

The moon goes through eight phases.

