

Earth & Space

Planet Earth

- Our home is Earth which is a planet. A planet is a body which orbits a star and the closest star to us is the Sun, which planet Earth orbits.
- Earth is the third closest planet to the Sun and is the fifth biggest planet in the solar system.
- As with other planets and stars, the earth is round. This is caused by gravity pulling on the surface towards the centre of the plane.

The Sun Size

In the very centre of our solar system is The Sun, which is about 1.3 million times as big as planet Earth.

The diameter of the sun is about 880,000 miles, where the Earth is only 7972 miles.



Moon

- A 'moon' is the name of a body which orbits another body, as long as it is not a star.
- Earth has its own moon which can be seen on any clear night. Just like how the Earth orbits the sun, the Moon orbits Earth.
- Mercury and Venus are the only planets in the solar system which don't have any moons at all (Saturn has 62 moons!).
- At night the Moon gives us light, but it isn't a light source like the Sun. It actually reflects the light from the Sun. Sometimes the Earth reflects light onto the moon. This is called 'Earthshine', and is why we can sometimes see the Moon during the daytime.

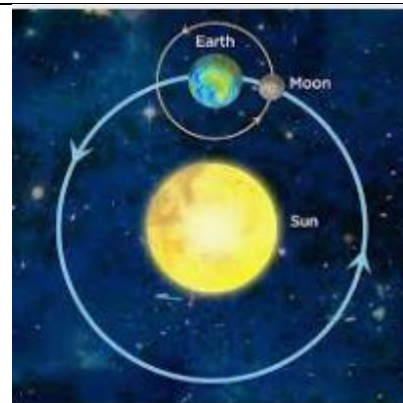


Orbit

An orbit is the path that celestial bodies or satellites follow (like planets and moons) as they revolve around another body.

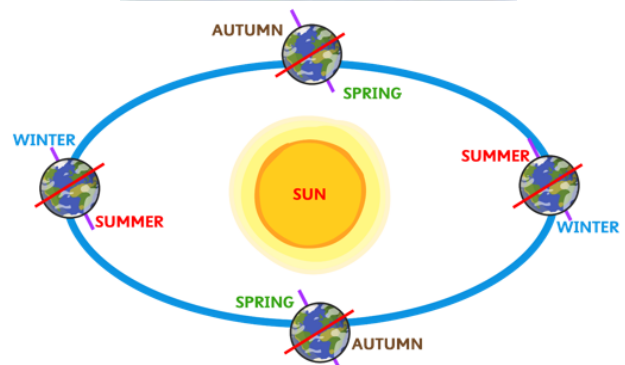
The force of gravity causes this.

The object in orbit will always be much smaller than whatever it is orbiting as it is the larger object that has more gravitational pull.

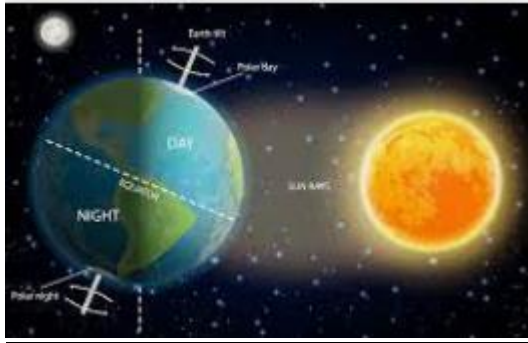


Seasons

Planet Earth takes 365 days (and 6 hours!) to orbit the sun once.



Day and Night



Day is when that half of the Earth is facing the sun and the half of the Earth that is facing away from the sun is doing so during the hours of darkness 'night'.

Solar System



The Solar System is a **huge collection of objects in space that all travel together**. It is made up of planets, dwarf planets, moons, asteroids and other objects in space that all orbit around the Sun. The Sun is a small star compared to other stars, but it is approximately 1.3 million times bigger than the Earth!

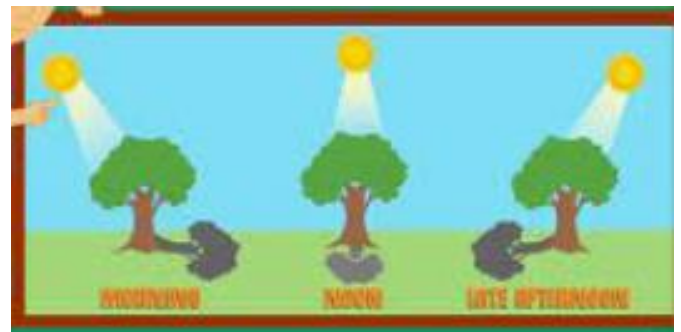
Stars

A star is a huge ball of burning gas which is held together by gravity. They are a light source as they produce their own light.



Shadows

Shadows are caused when the rays of light from the sun are blocked by an object that it can not pass through.



Key Vocabulary

Earth	Planets	Sun	Northern Hemisphere	Southern Hemisphere
Solar system		Moon	Celestial body	
Sphere / spherical		Rotation	Spin	
Phases of moon			Orbit Elliptical orbit	
Revolve,		Shadow clocks ,	Sundials	
Asteroids,		Comets,	Galaxy	Meteors
Light years				