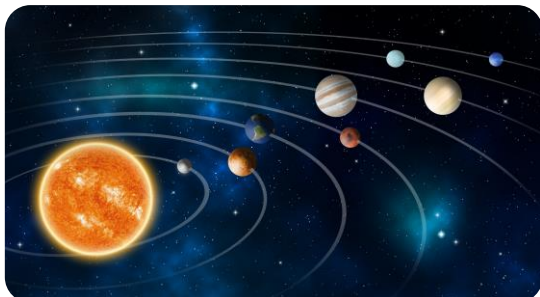


Earth and Space

In this unit, I will:

- Describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies
- Describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the Sun in the solar system
- Use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky
- Describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth

The Solar System



Mercury
Venus
Earth
Mars
Jupiter
Saturn
Uranus
Neptune

Copernicus developed the heliocentric theory that the sun was at the centre of the solar system. The planets orbit the sun in a circular pattern. Each planet has its own characteristics and features. The four inner planets are the rocky terrestrial planets. The four outer planets are the gas giants.

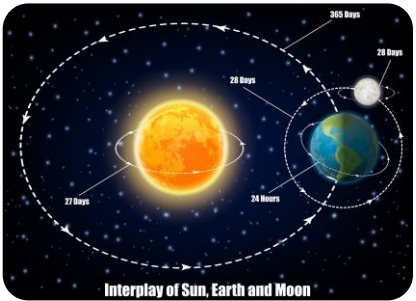
geocentric	The old solar system model, which thought the Earth was at the centre.
solar system	The name for the Sun and all planets and objects that orbit it.
astronomy	The study of space, planets and the universe as a whole.
terrestrial planet	The name given to the four inner rocky planets - Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.
gas giants	The name given to the four outer planets - Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
axis	The (imaginary) line which a planet rotates around and tilts on.
orbit	The path of a celestial object around another, such as Moon around the Earth.
moon	A body which orbits a planet; also called a natural satellite.
phase	The appearance of a Moon or planet, according to the amount of illumination.
waxing	the name given to Moon phases when the Moon is becoming brighter
waning	the name given to Moon phases when the Moon is becoming darker

Working Scientifically Skills

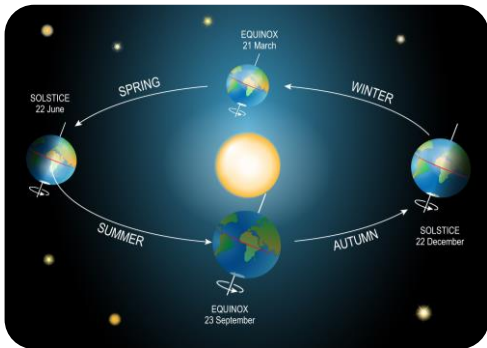


Earth's movement

The Earth spins on its axis and completes a full rotation every 24 hours. The Earth is constantly rotating and orbiting the Sun - which takes 365 days. As the Earth rotates, it faces towards and away from the Sun. This creates the day and night cycle.



Moon Phases



The moon orbits Earth in an oval pattern whilst spinning on its axis. The sun illuminates the Moon. The shadow of the Earth creates the moon's phases.