

Key Learning Autumn 1 2025

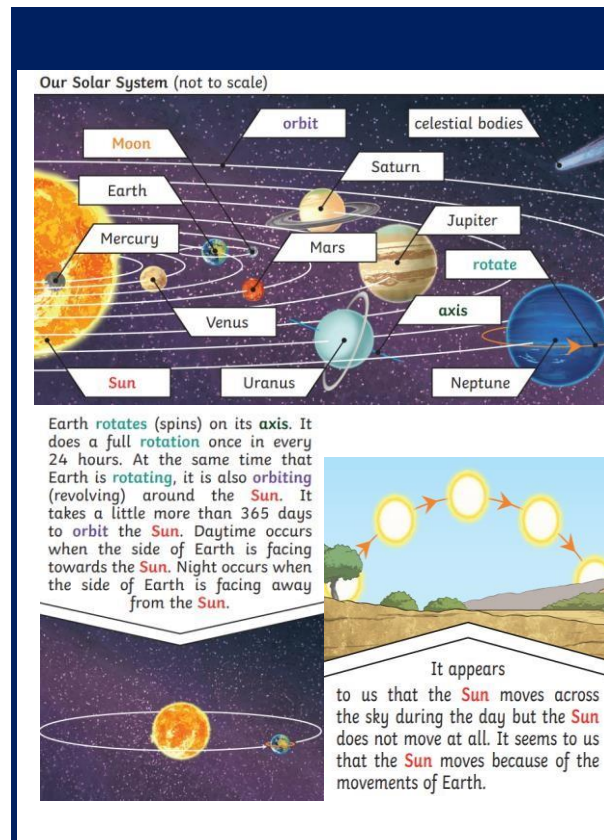
- The Sun is a star. It is at the centre of our solar system.
- There are 8 planets. These travel around the Sun in fixed orbits.
- Earth takes 365¼ days to complete its orbit around the Sun.
- The Earth rotates (spins) on its axis every 24 hours.
- As Earth rotates half faces the Sun (day) and half is facing away from the Sun (night).
- As the Earth rotates, the Sun appears to move across the sky.
- The Moon orbits the Earth. It takes about 28 days to complete its orbit.
- The Sun, Earth and Moon are approximately spherical.

Investigation Questions

Year 5/6: Earth and Space



Morda CE Primary School



Key Scientific Vocabulary

Sun	The star that provides light and heat for the earth and around which the earth moves
Moon	The round object that moves in the sky around the earth and can be seen at night
Earth	The planet third in order of distance from the sun; the world on which we live
Planets	Extremely large, round masses of rock and metal, such as Earth, or of gas, such as Jupiter, that move in circular paths around the sun or another star (Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, Mars, Uranus, Neptune)
Spherical	Round, like a ball
Solar System	The sun and the group of planets that move around it
Rotate	To turn or cause something to turn in a circle
Star	A very large ball of burning gas in

	Common Misconceptions		space that is usually seen from the earth as a point of light in the sky at
How does the movement of the earth around the sun affect time?	<p>Some children may think:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Earth is flat• the Sun is a planet• the Sun rotates around the Earth• the Sun moves across the sky during the day• the Sun rises in the morning and sets in the evening• the Moon appears only at night• night is caused by the Moon getting in the way of the Sun or the Sun moving further away from the Earth.	orbit	night The curved path through which objects in space move around a planet or star