
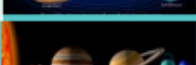
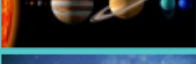






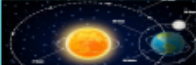

	<b>heliocentric</b>
	<b>geocentric</b>
	<b>solar system</b>
	<b>astronomy</b>
	<b>terrestrial planet</b>
	<b>gas giants</b>
	<b>axis</b>
	<b>orbit</b>
	<b>moon</b>
	<b>phase</b>
	<b>waxing</b>
	<b>waning</b>

**Key learning**

The Sun is a star. It is at the centre of our solar system. There are 8 planets (can choose to name them, but not essential). These travel around the Sun in fixed orbits. Earth takes 365½ 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.

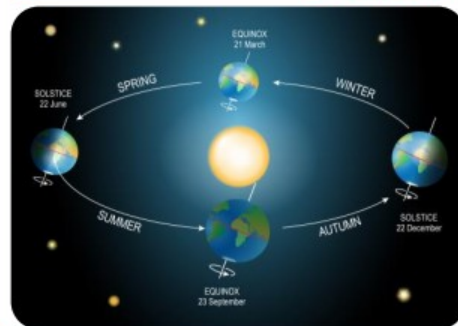
**The Solar System**



- 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.

**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.

**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.



**The Sun**

The Sun is a burning ball of gas which appears to move across the sky during the day. However, this movement is actually due to the Earth's orbit around the sun.



## Unit Rocket Words: Earth and Space



### Rocket Words

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