

Earth and Space

Links

Reception- Mission Impossible - We learned about similarities and differences in the natural world around us comparing what we know. We also learned about the earth, the sun and the moon.

Year 3 - Forces - We learned about gravity and how it acts on objects.

Key Vocabulary

Celestial body- an object in space. This could be a planet, moon, asteroid or comet.

Orbit - when an object travels around another in a roughly curved path.

Axis - an imaginary line around which something rotates.



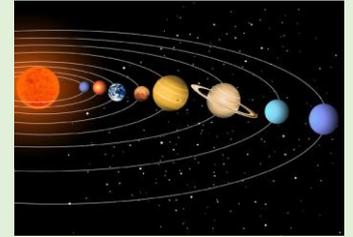
Rotate - spin around.

Geocentric - the idea that the earth is at the centre of our solar system.

Heliocentric - the idea that the sun is at the centre of our solar system.

Key Knowledge - Earth and Space

- The sun is at the centre of our solar system.
- The sun is a star.
- There are eight planets that orbit the sun. The first four of them (Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars) are made of rock. The last 4 (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune) are made from gas.
- The Earth rotates on its axis. This takes a day (24 hours).
- We have day and night because the earth rotates on its axis. This is why the sun appears to move across the sky.
- Moons orbit planets.
- The earth has one moon.
- It takes our moon 29.5 days to orbit the earth. This is approximately a month.
- It takes a year (approximately 365 days) for the earth to orbit the sun.
- The reason the moon's appearance changes is because of the position of the sun.



- Planets are approximately spherical bodies. For a celestial body to be considered a planet it must be stuck in a fixed orbit around a star and must be large enough to create its own gravity.
- On earth we have different time zones as the earth's axis is tilted so the sun reaches different countries at different times.