

Earth and Space Knowledge organiser Y5

Key Vocabulary	Meaning
Planet	A large object, round or nearly round that orbits the sun.
Sun	A huge star that Earth and the other planets in our solar system orbit around.
Star	A giant ball of gas held together by its own gravity.
Moon	A natural satellite which orbits Earth or other planets.
Orbit	To move in a regular, repeating curved path around another object.
Rotate	To spin. Eg. Earth rotates on its axis
Axis	An imaginary line that a body rotates around. Eg. Earth's axis running from North Pole to South Pole.

Key Knowledge

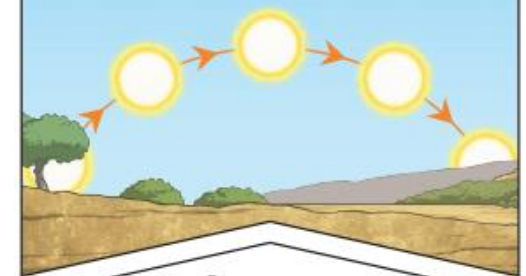
Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are rocky **planets**. They are mostly made up of metal and rock. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are mostly made up of gases (helium and hydrogen) although they do have cores made up of rock and metal.



The **Moon** orbits Earth in an oval-shaped path while spinning on its **axis**. At various times in a month, the **Moon** appears to be different shapes. This is because as the **Moon** rotates round Earth, the **Sun** lights up different parts of it.

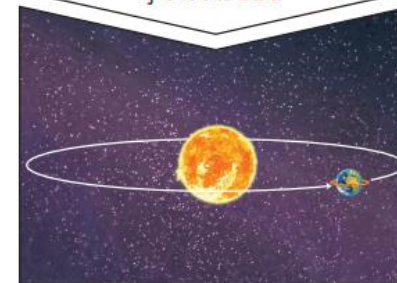
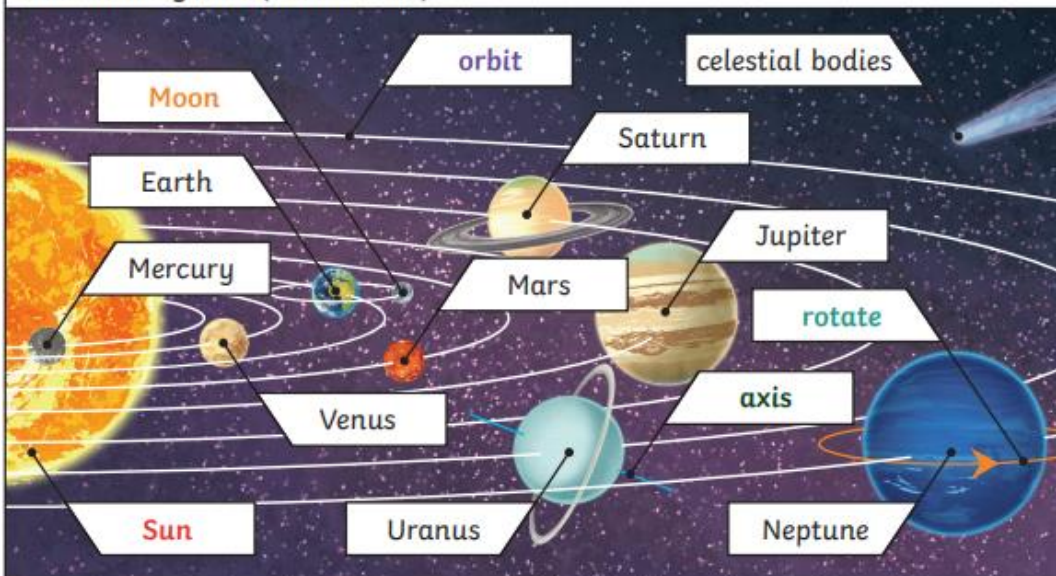
Earth **rotates** (spins) on its **axis**. It does a full **rotation** once in every 24 hours. At the same time that Earth is **rotating**, it is also **orbiting** (revolving) around the **Sun**. It takes a little more than 365 days to **orbit** the **Sun**. Daytime occurs when the side of Earth is facing towards the **Sun**. Night occurs when the side of Earth is facing away from the **Sun**.

Key Knowledge



It appears to us that the **Sun** moves across the sky during the day but the **Sun** does not move at all. It seems to us that the **Sun** moves because of the movements of Earth.

Our Solar System (not to scale)



Pluto used to be considered a **planet** but was reclassified as a dwarf **planet** in 2006.

