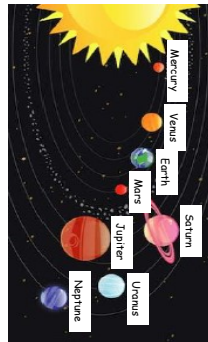


Year 5: Earth and Space

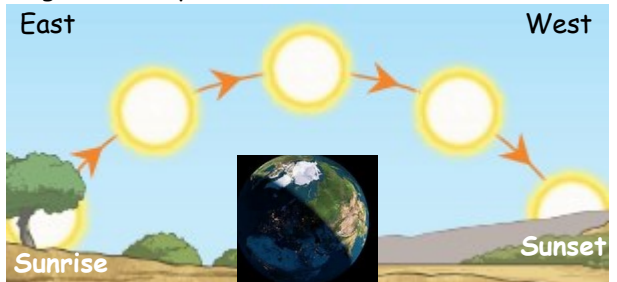
Key Learning

Our Solar System



The sun is a star at the centre of our Solar System. There are 8 planets in our Solar System, including Earth. The planets all travel around the sun in their own fixed orbits. Earth takes $365\frac{1}{4}$ days to orbit around the sun. That is why we have a leap year every 4 years which is when we have an extra day in February.

Night and Day



As the Earth orbits the Sun, it rotates meaning half of the Earth is facing the Sun whilst the other half is facing away. The part of the Earth facing the Sun will experience day and the part facing away will experience night. It takes 24 hours for the Earth to rotate on its axis. The Sun does not move, but it is the Earth's movement that makes the Sun appear to rise in the morning from the east and set in the evening in the west.



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.

Sticky Vocabulary

Star	A large mass of burning gas that you can see as a bright speck on white light in the sky at night.
Sun	A star at the centre of our solar system.
Moon	A natural satellite of a planet. The Earth's moon orbits just Earth. It is visible (mainly at night) because of reflected light from the sun.
Planet	A spherical body that orbits a star. A planet must be big enough that its gravity clears away any objects of a similar size near its orbit.
Earth	The third planet from the sun and the planet that we live on.
Mercury	The smallest and closest planet to the sun.
Jupiter	The sixth planet from the sun.
Mars	The fourth planet from the sun
Uranus	The seventh planet from the sun.
Neptune	The eighth and furthest planet from the sun.
Solar system	A series of planets which orbits a star. In our solar system the star the planets orbit is the sun.
spherical	A round, solid shape.
rotates	To move in a circle round a centre (axis).
orbit	A repeated route that a planet (or objects) takes.