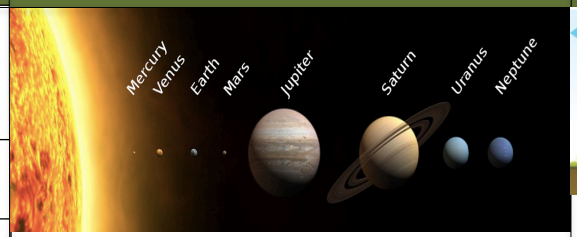
Year 5: Earth and Space Learning Organiser

Subject Specific Vocabulary

sun	A huge star that Earth and the other planets in our solar system orbit around. It is the centre of our solar system.
star	A giant ball of gas held together by its own gravity.
moon	A natural satellite which orbits Earth or other planets.
orbit	An orbit is a repeating path that one celestial body takes around another.
solar system	The solar system is made of the eight planets that orbit our sun; it is also made of asteroids, moons, comets and lots more.
astronomical	Astronomy is the study of outer space, focusing on celestial bodies such as stars, comets, planets and galaxies.
satellite	Ay object or body in space that orbits something, for example, the Moon is a satellite of Earth.
planet	There are 8 planets in our solar system, they are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
rotation	Rotation is when a shape is turned around a fixed point.
spherical	Something spherical is like a sphere in being round, or more or less round, in three dimensions.
eclipse	An eclipse occurs when an astronomical object is temporarily obscured. A lunar eclipse is when the Earth moves between the Sun and the Moon, therefore blocking the Sun's rays from striking the Moon.

Our Solar System



The planets in our Solar System.

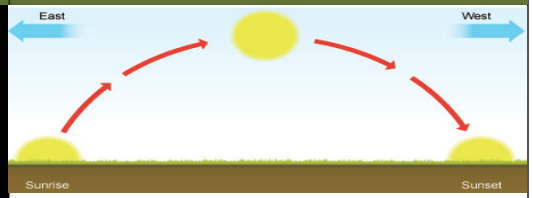


Pluto used to be considered a planet but was reclassified as dwarf planet in 2006.

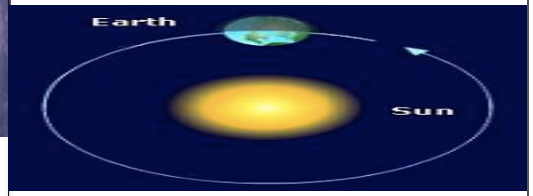
Years ago people believed that other planets and the Sun orbited around Earth. This is known as the **geocentric model**.

We now know that the structure of the Solar System is where planets orbit around the Sun. This is known as the **heliocentric model.**

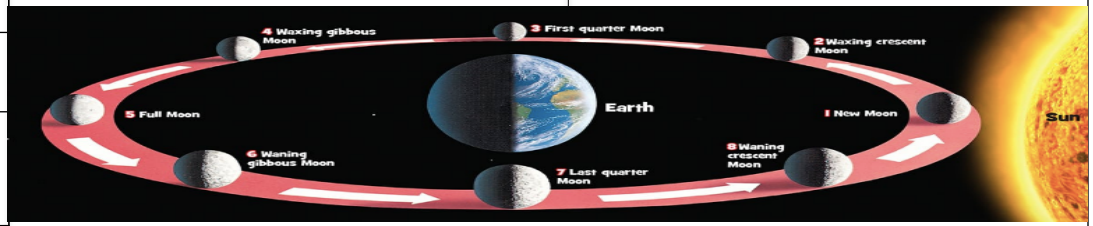
The Sun



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 movement of Earth.



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



The Moon orbits the Earth in an oval-shaped path while spinning on its axis. At various times in month, the Moon appears to be different shapes. This is because as the Moon rotates round Earth, the sun light up different parts of it. It takes the Moon 27.3 days to make a complete orbit around the Earth, but because the Earth is moving around the sun at the same time, it takes the moon 29.5 days to go through its eight different 'phases' – a lunar month.