



Endpoints for Science

Year 5 – Earth and Space



In this topic, we will be learning about the Solar System, the movement of the Earth in space along with those of the other planets.

What I know and can explain

The Solar System is made up of the Sun and everything that orbits around it

The Sun's force of gravity, created by its huge mass, keeps the planets in orbit.

The eight planets in our Solar System are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune

The Moon orbits the Earth once every 27.3 days and also rotates on its axis once every 27.3 days

Earth orbits around the Sun. The length of time it takes for Earth to complete a full orbit is 365.25 days, one year

The Earth completes one rotation on its axis in 24 hours, one day

During the day, the Sun appears to move through the sky. The Sun is not moving the Earth is rotating

As Earth rotates, different parts of it face the Sun, which brings what we call daytime. The part facing away is in shadow, which is night time

When it is winter in the Northern Hemisphere is summer in the Southern Hemisphere

Useful Vocabulary

Axis - An imaginary line that runs through the centre of an object, such as a planet, about which it rotates

Earth - The planet in our Solar System upon which we live that has the optimum conditions to support life, such as the right amount of water, oxygen and warmth

Geocentric model – a disproven idea that the Earth was at the centre of the Solar System

Gravitational force - A non-contact pulling force between objects that have mass

Heliocentric model - The proven theory that the Sun is at the centre of the Solar System and the eight planets orbit around it

Northern Hemisphere - The half of the planet Earth that is north of the equator

Orbit - The stable, circular path of an object revolving around a central mass with gravitational force, such as the planets revolving around the Sun, or the Moon revolving around the Earth

Satellite - A natural or artificial object orbiting a larger natural object in space, such as the Moon or a spacecraft orbiting the Earth