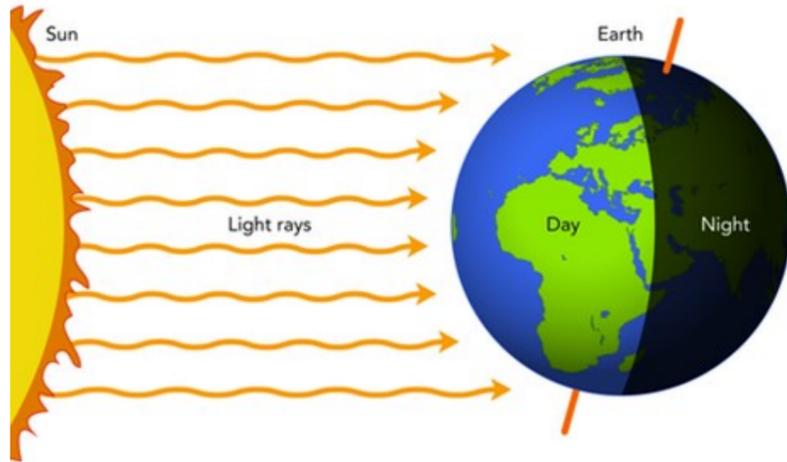




YEAR 5 SCIENCE: EARTH AND SPACE

The Earth orbits the Sun

- Earth takes 365¼ days to complete its orbit around the Sun. This is a year.
- Light and heat from the Sun are necessary for life on Earth to exist.

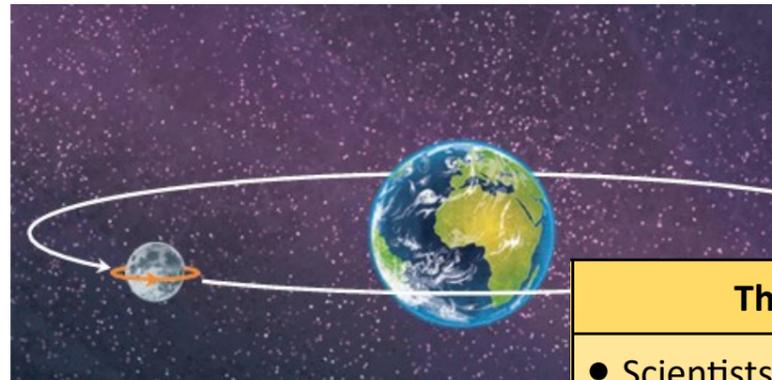


Night and Day

- The Earth rotates (spins) on its axis once every 24 hours.
- The parts of Earth facing the Sun experience daytime.
- The parts of Earth facing away from the Sun experience night-time.

The Moon

- The Moon takes approximately 27 days to orbit the Earth.
- There are 8 phases of the Moon throughout the month, when the Moon appears to change shape.
- The Moon does not change shape: our view of the Moon changes due to the position of Earth, the Moon and the Sun at any time.



The Solar System

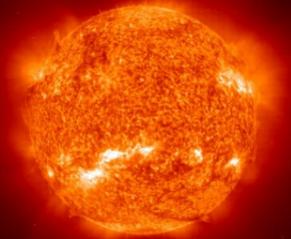
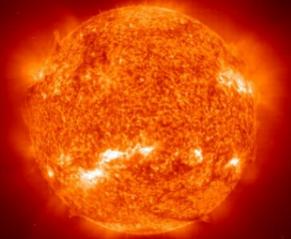
- Our solar system has eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
- Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are called the inner planets.
- Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are called the outer planets.
- The inner planets are made of rock; the outer planets are made of gas.
- The outer planets are larger than the inner planets. They have more moons than the inner planets.



The geocentric model

- Scientists in ancient times had a theory that Earth was at the centre of our solar system, and that the other planets and the Sun orbited around it.

Vocabulary

star		A massive ball of burning gas in space that gives off light and heat.
Sun		The star at the centre of our solar system.
Earth		The planet that we live on. It is the third planet from the Sun.
solar system		The Sun and everything that orbits (travels around) the Sun. This includes the eight planets and their moons, dwarf planets, and asteroids and comets.
planet		A large, nearly spherical object, made of rock or gas, that orbits the Sun.
day		A 24-hour period in which Earth fully rotates once on its axis.
axis		The imaginary line about which a planet (or other body) rotates.
moon		A natural satellite that orbits a planet.
satellite		An object that orbits a planet or a star.

The heliocentric model

- The now-accepted model of the solar system is one where the Sun is at the centre, and the planets and moons orbit the Sun.