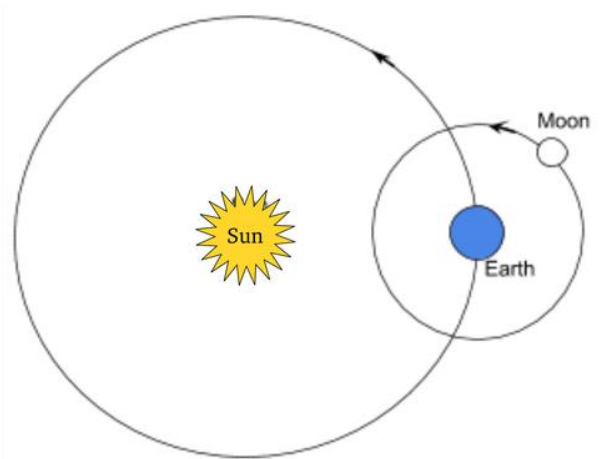
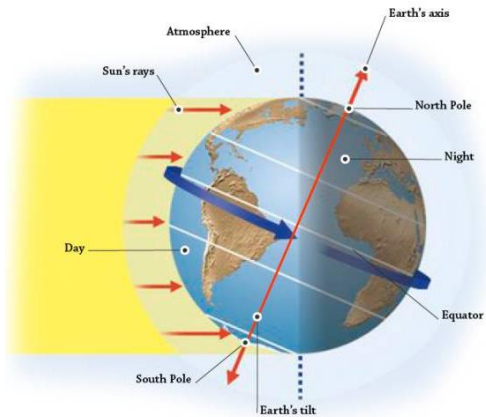


Earth and Space

Earth

Earth orbits the sun. A complete orbit takes **365 ¼ days**. This is why there are 365 days in a year and a leap year (with one additional day) every 4 years.

Earth also rotates on an **axis**. A complete rotation takes **24 hours** which is the length of one day. It is daylight when facing the sun and night-time when facing away from the sun. This is why countries on the other side of the world, e.g. Australia, have night when we have day.



The moon orbits earth and earth orbits the sun.

The moon

The moon is a celestial body. It **orbits** the earth and takes **28 days** to complete a full orbit.

The moon has not light source of its own. We can see it because the sun's light reflects off it.

The **phases of the Moon** depend on its position in relation to the Sun and Earth. As the Moon makes its way around the Earth, we see the bright parts of the Moon's surface at different angles. These are called "phases" of the Moon.



Vocabulary

Orbit – the path an object takes through space around another object.

Planet – A large object that orbits a star.

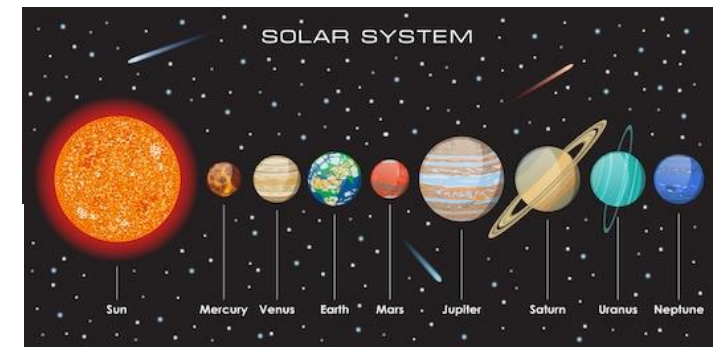
Star – Huge, glowing balls of gases.

Axis – An imaginary line an object turns around that runs through the centre.

There are 8 **planets** in the **solar system**-

- Mercury
- Venus
- Earth
- Mars
- Jupiter
- Saturn
- Uranus
- Neptune

The sun is not a planet, it is a **star**.



The sun

The sun doesn't move. It looks to us like it moves across the sky each day, but this is because earth is rotating on its axis. The sun rises in the East and sets in the West. This causes shadows to change during the day.

The sun, moon and earth are approximately spherical in shape.