

Earth and space – Year 5

Key vocabulary

Earth	The planet we live on. It is the third planet from the Sun.
Sun	The Sun is the star at the centre of our solar system. It is not safe to look directly at the Sun, even when wearing dark glasses.
Moon	The moon is the only natural satellite of the Earth.
planets	Large round objects, made of rock or gas, that move around the sun.
solar system	The sun and all the planets that orbit around it.
star	A huge ball of glowing gas in space.
rotate	When an object rotates it turns (spins) on its axis.
orbit	The curved path that an object follows going around a star or a planet.



The Sun is a star at the centre of our solar system.

There are 8 planets in our solar system: **Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.**

These all **orbit** (travel) around the sun.

Significant scientists

Nicolaus Copernicus
(1473-1543)



Nicolaus was a Polish astronomer and mathematician who formulated the heliocentric model of the solar system that placed the Sun rather than the Earth at the centre of the universe.

Maggie Aderin-Pocock
(born 1968)

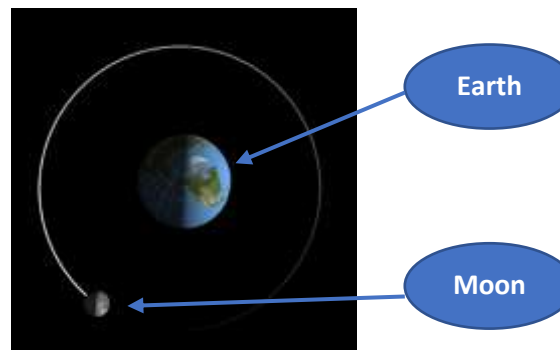


Maggie is a British space scientist and science educator. She is working on the observation instruments for the Aeolus satellite, which will measure wind speeds to help the investigation of climate change.

The Sun, Earth and Moon are approximately spherical bodies.

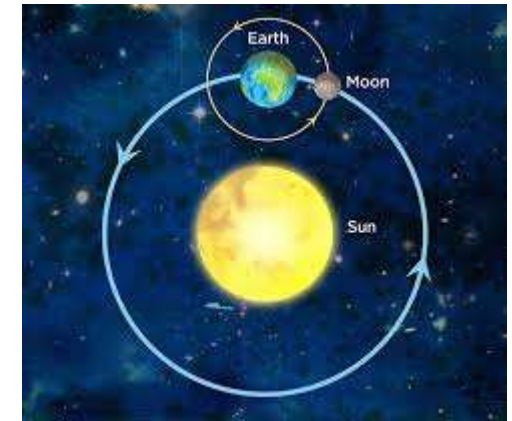
The moon orbits the Earth

It takes about 28 days to complete its orbit.

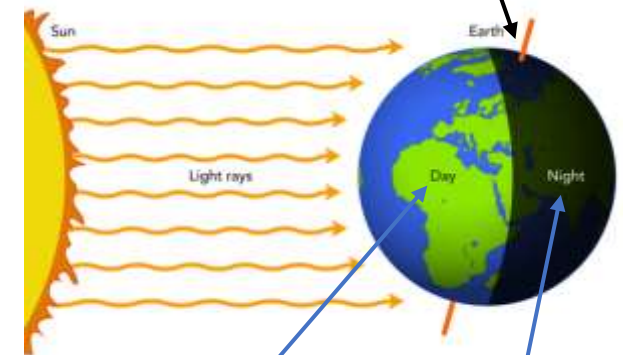


The Earth orbits the Sun.

It takes 365¼ days to complete its orbit around the Sun. This is a year.



The Earth rotates (spins) on its axis once every 24 hours.



It is day for the half of the Earth facing the Sun.

It is night for the half of the Earth facing away from the Sun.