

Earth and Space Knowledge Organiser

Key Vocabulary

Sun - A huge star that Earth and the other planets in our solar system orbit around.

Star - A giant ball of gas held together by its own gravity.

Moon - A natural satellite which orbits Earth or other planets.

Planet - A large, round or nearly round, that orbits a star.

Sphere - A round 3D shape in the shape of a ball.

Spherical Bodies - Astronomical objects shapes like spheres.

Satellite - Any object or body in space that orbits something else, for example the Moon is a satellite of Earth.

Orbit - To move in a regular, repeating curved path around another object.

Rotate - To spin. E.g. Earth rotates on its own axis.

Axis - An imaginary line that a body rotates around. E.g. Earth's axis (imaginary line) runs from the North to the South Pole.

Geocentric model - A belief people used to have that other planets and the Sun orbited around the Earth.

Heliocentric model - The structure of the Solar System where the planets orbit around the Sun.

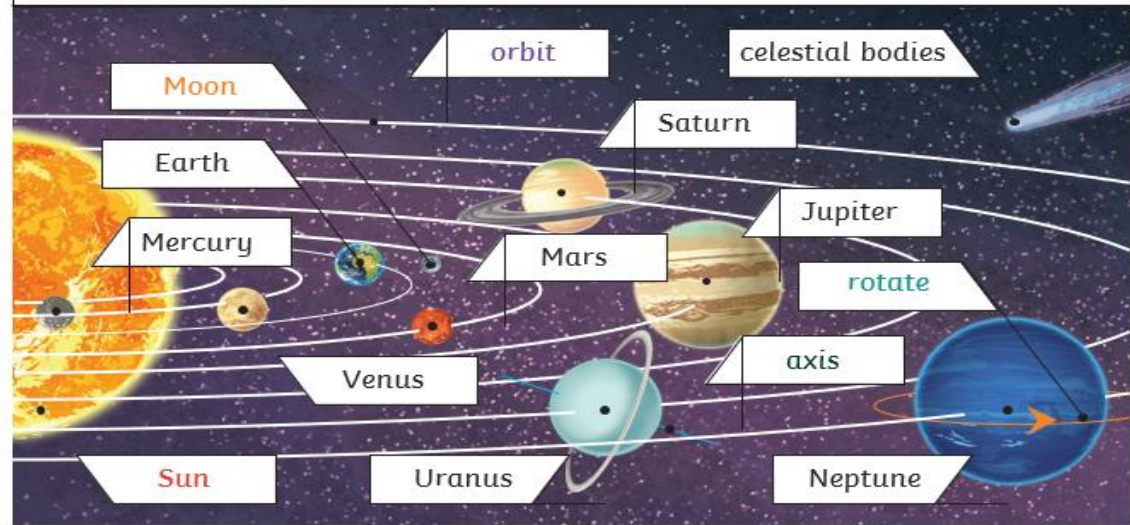
Astronomer - Someone who studies or is an expert in astronomy (space science).

Otters Spring Term 1

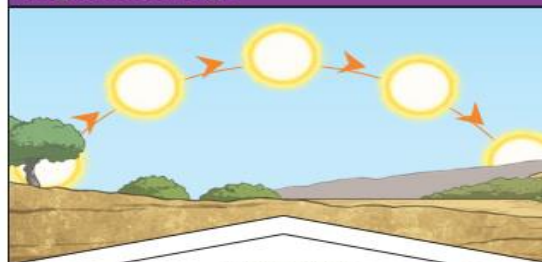
Key Knowledge

Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are rocky **planets**. They are mostly made up of metal and rock. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are mostly made up of gases (helium and hydrogen) although they do have cores made up of rock and metal.

Our Solar System (not to scale)



Key Knowledge



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 movements of Earth.



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

