



Year 5 – Earth and Space



Key Vocab

astronaut – a scientist who travels into space

astronomer – a scientist who learns about space

axis – an imaginary line through the middle of something

galaxy – an extremely large group of stars and planets. Our galaxy is called the Milky Way

heliocentric – an understanding of the solar system as having the Sun at the centre, with the planets orbiting around it

meteorite – a rock from outer space that has landed on Earth

moon – a natural satellite that orbits a planet. Earth only has one moon, other planets have different amounts

orbit – a curved path in space that is followed by an object going round a planet, moon or star

planet – a large, roughly spherical object that orbits a star

rotation – to spin around an axis or centre

shadow – a dark shape created when light is blocked

solar system – our Sun and all the planets that orbit around it

spherical – shaped like a sphere (a ball)

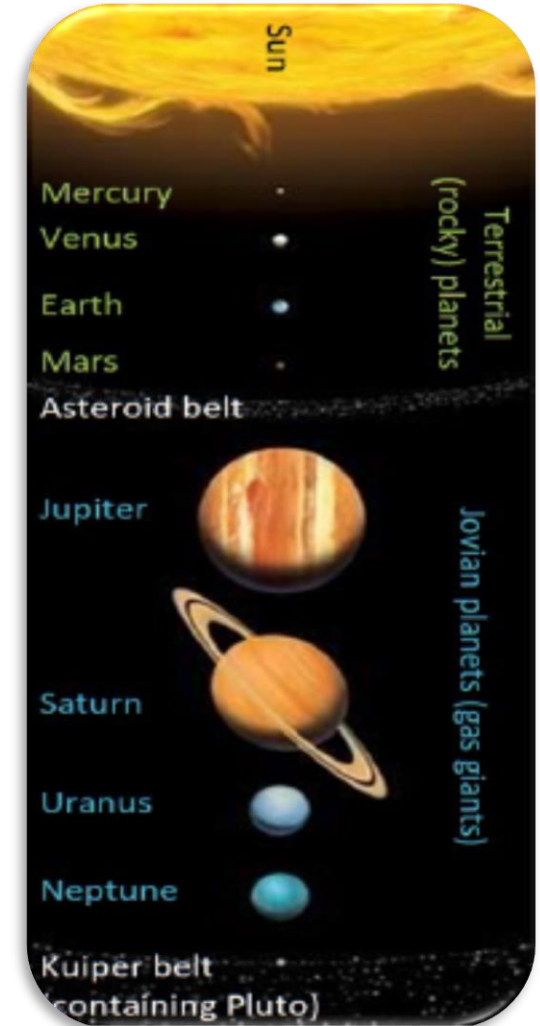
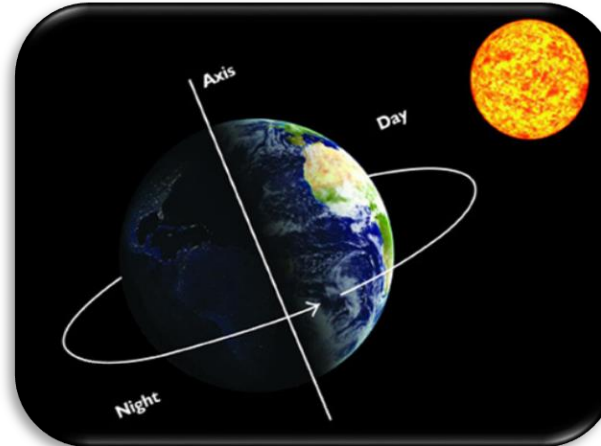
star – a large ball of burning gas in space

Sun – the name we give to the star in the middle of our own solar system

universe – the whole of space and all the stars, planets and other forms of matter and energy in it

By the end of the unit, I will be able to:

- 🌍 describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun and in the solar system
- 🌍 describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth
- 🌍 describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies
- 🌍 use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky



- 🌍 It takes 24 hours for the Earth to **rotate** on its **axis**. This is what causes night and day and why the Sun appears to move across the sky.
- 🌍 It takes 365 and a quarter days for the Earth to complete an **orbit** around the Sun.
- 🌍 Because of the extra quarter day, every four years on Earth is called a leap year and we have an extra day (the 29th February)