

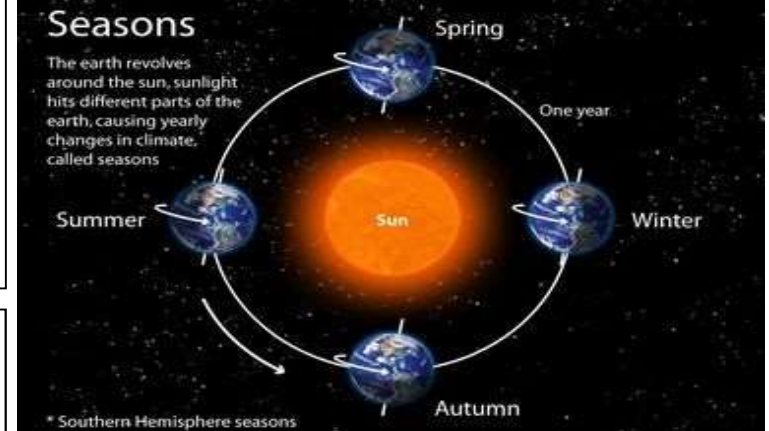
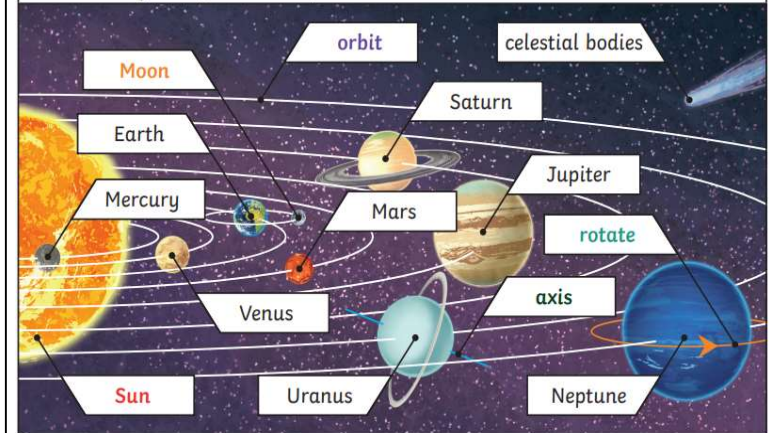
Phases of the moon

The moon orbits Earth in an oval-shaped path while spinning on its axis. At various times in a month, the Moon appears to be different shapes. This is because as the Moon rotates round Earth, the Sun lights up different parts of it.

Key Vocabulary

planet	A large object, round or nearly round that orbits a star.
moon	A natural satellite which orbits Earth or other planets
Sun	A huge star that Earth and the other planets in our solar system orbit around
axis	An imaginary line that a body rotates around the Earth axis runs from the North pole to the South pole
rotate	To spin, The Earth rotates on its own axis.
constellation	A group of stars in the night sky that make up a recognisable shape or pattern.
star	A giant ball of gas held together by its own gravity.
Geocentric model	A belief people used to have that other planets and the Sun orbited Earth.

Our Solar System (not to scale)



DAY AND NIGHT The earth receives light from the sun.

Every 24 hours the earth spins once on its axis.

That means at every point in the day one half of the earth is daytime another half is night time.

Spherical bodies

Astronomical objects are shaped like spheres because the gravitational pull from their centre to their edges is equal from all sides.

Astronomers

Astronomers such as Nicholas Copernicus, Johannes Kepler and Galileo Galilei are famous for their work in understanding how planets move.

Earth and Space