

Key Vocabulary

solar system	A series of planets which orbit a star. In our solar system, the planets orbit around the sun.
planet	A large object that orbits a star. It is smaller than a star and does not make light.
axis	A real or imaginary line through the centre of an object, around which the object turns.
orbit	The curved path of an object in space.
star	A glowing ball of gas.
gas giants	Planets such as Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune.

Key Facts

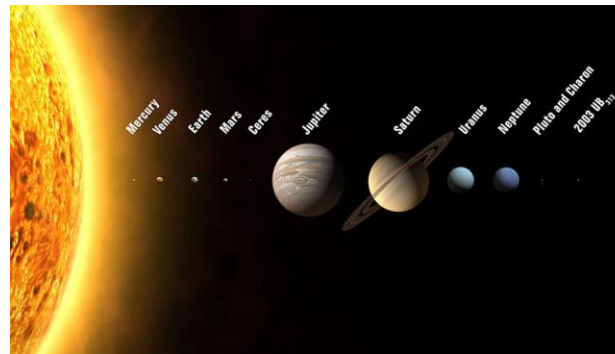
- Our solar system is centred around the sun. There are 8 planets in our solar system including earth.
- The names of the planets in order of the closest to the sun are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
- We get night and day because the Earth spins on it's axis as we orbit the sun. When we are facing away from the sun, we have night.
- Stars are huge, glowing balls of gas. The sun is a star.

Key Questions

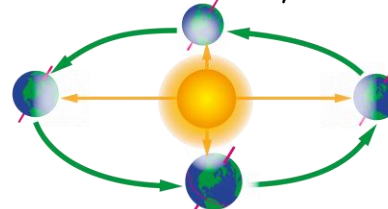
- How is our solar system structured?
- What are the names of the planets?
- How do we get night and day?
- How do we orbit the sun?
- Why does the moon sometimes look different?
- What are stars?

Links to other Learning

- Year 1 - Seasonal changes
Observe changes across the four seasons
- Year 3 - Light
Recognise light from the sun can be dangerous
- Key Stage 3 - Physics
Space physics



Planets in our solar system



The Earth orbits the sun and spins on it's axis creating the seasons as well as night and day.

Famous Scientist

Carolyn Porco

Carolyn Porco is a planetary scientist who explores the outer solar system. She began with imaging work on the Voyager missions to Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. She was also part of the team who discovered Saturn's 7 moons!

