Year 5, Term 2: Earth and Space

Key vocabulary

Geocentric: The belief that the earth was in the centre of the solar system and that the sun and all the other planets orbited it.

Heliocentric: The fact that the sun is at the centre of the universe and that all the other planets orbit the sun.

Orbit: The path one object in space takes around another.

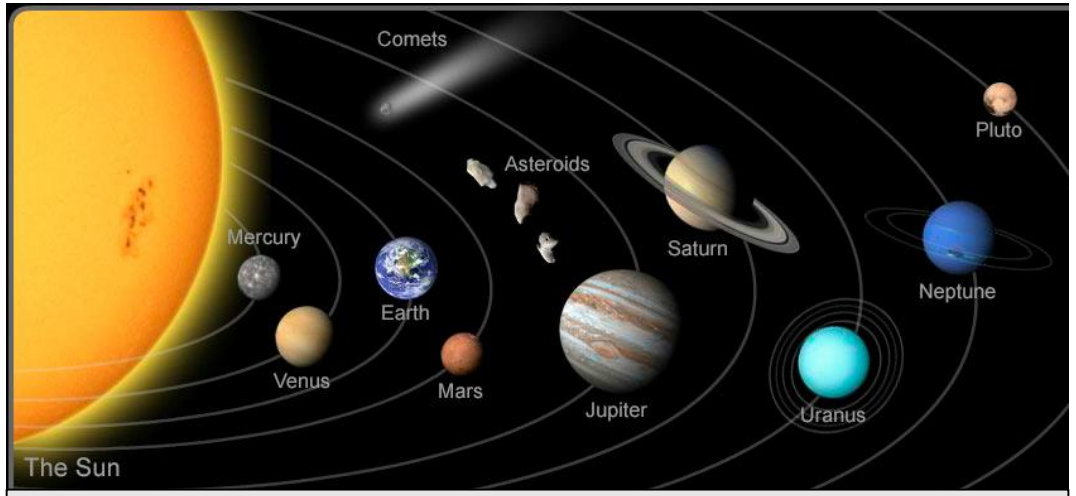
Axis: An invisible line around which an object rotates, or spins.

Solar System: Consists of our star, the Sun, and everything bound to it by gravity – the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune; dwarf planets such as Pluto; dozens of moons; and millions of asteroids, comets, and meteoroids.

Solar Eclipse: When the moon passes between the sun and earth so the moon blocks the sunlight.

Waning Moon: Means the moon looks like it is getting smaller.

Waxing Moon: Means the moon looks like it is getting larger.



Above: The Solar System (Pluto was reclassified as a dwarf planed in 2006)

Left: The moon phases.

Right: Neil Armstrong: The first man to step on the moon - 1969

Sticky Knowledge:

People used the believe that the solar system was Geocentric.

Scientists have proven that the solar system is Heliocentric.

The sun is incredibly bright. It is not safe to look directly at the sun, even when wearing sunglasses!

Time:

24 hours: The time it takes for the Earth to spin once on its axis (When the Earth faces the sun it is daylight and when it faces away from the sun it is night. It makes the sun appear to travel across the sky).

28 days: The time it takes the moon to orbit the Earth (A lunar month – see phases of the moon).

365 ¼ days: The time it takes for the Earth to orbit the sun. (Every 4 years there is a leap year due to the extra quarter – an extra day in February).

Seasons: Are caused by the Earth's tilt on its axis. Sometimes it points towards the sun and other times it points away from the sun.

The Sun:

A star at the centre of our solar system. 15 million degrees hot at its centre. It is 1.3 millions times bigger than earth.