

Year 5 Science Knowledge Organiser Earth and Space

Selected Vocabulary and Definitions

Space	
Asteroid	A small rocky body orbiting the sun.
Axis	An imaginary line about which a body rotates.
Celestial	Positioned in or relating to the sky or outer space as observed in the astronomy.
Day	A twenty-four hour period, from one midnight to the next, corresponding to a rotation of the earth on its axis.
Dwarf Planet	A celestial body resembling a small planet but lacking certain technical criteria, e.g. Pluto.
Geocentric	Where people believed the earth was at the centre of the solar system.
Heliocentric	Representing the sun as the centre of the solar system, the modern view of the solar system.
Moon	A natural satellite of any planet.
Night	The period from sunset to sunrise in each twenty-four hours.
Orbit	The regularly repeated oval course of a celestial object around a star or planet.
Planet	A celestial body moving in orbit round a star.
Rotation	The action of rotating about an axis or centre.
Solar System	The collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit around the sun.
Star	A massive self-luminous celestial body of gas that shines by radiation derived from its internal energy sources.
Sun	The star round which the planets orbit. Centre of the Solar System.

Curriculum Objectives

I can describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system.

I can describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth.

I can describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies.

I can explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky using the idea of the Earth's rotation.

Key Questions

- True or false. The Earth orbits the sun?
- Is the Moon a light source? Describe the movement of the Moon in space, in one sentence.
- Which of the following describes the shape of the Earth, Moon and Sun? Sphere, circle, cylinder, oval.
- Explain day and night.

