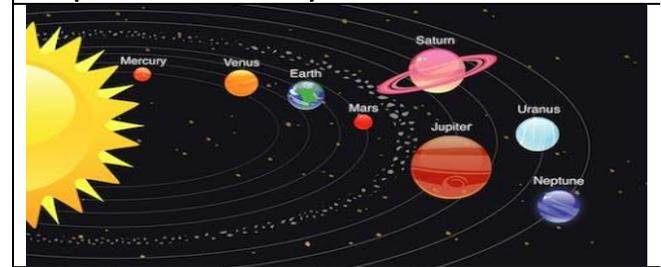


**Key facts**

- The Earth, Sun and Moon are all spherical.
- The Moon is smaller than the Earth.
- The Sun is considerably larger than the Earth and at the centre of our solar system.
- The Earth is one of 8 planets in our solar system.
- The Sun is a star and is made of gases: helium and hydrogen.
- The Earth orbits the Sun once a year.
- The Earth spins on its axis once every 24 hours.
- The Moon orbits Earth once every 28 days.
- The Moon spins on its axis once every 28 days.

# Space

**The planets in our Solar System**

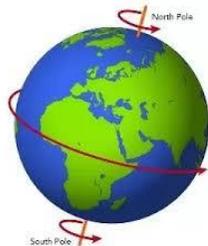


**How does the Earth move in our solar system?**

The Earth, along with the other planets in our solar system, orbits (travels around) the Sun. It takes one year, or 365 ¼ days for Earth to orbit the Sun.

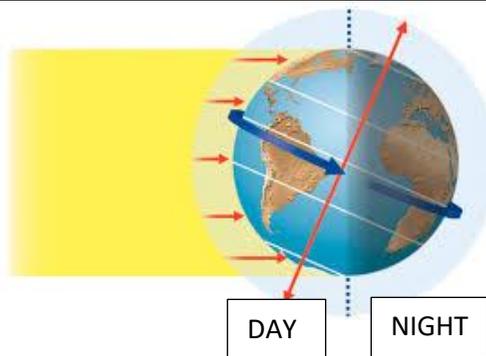


The Earth also spins on its axis. It takes 24 hours for the Earth to do one complete rotation.



**What causes night and day?**

Night and day are caused by the Earth spinning on its axis. The half of Earth in the yellow section which is facing the sun will experience daylight, whereas the darker half on the right receives no light and is in darkness. It takes 24 hours for the Earth to complete one spin which is why a day lasts 24hours.



**Vocabulary**

orbit	The regularly repeated oval course of something around a planet or star.
planet	A roughly spherical lump of rock or gas which orbits a star.
solar system	A collection of planets and their moons all orbiting the same sun.
axis	The imaginary line that runs through a planet or other body in space. The Earth's axis goes from the north pole to the south pole.
satellite	Something which orbits a planet, can be natural or man-made.
moon	A roughly spherical lump of rock or gas which orbits a planet.
spherical	Ball-shaped / shaped like a sphere
star	A large ball of burning gas in space which usually looks like a point of light in the sky at night.
Yuri Gagarin	The first man in space in 1961. (Russian)
Neil Armstrong	The first man to walk on the Moon in 1969 as part of the Apollo 11 space mission. (American)
Rocket	A vehicle which launches into space.

**How does the Moon move in our solar system?**

The Moon orbits Earth once every 28 days.  
The Moon also spins on its axis once every 28 days.

