



Year 5 | Science | Summer 1 | Space



Key Learning

The **Solar System** is home to our own planet, Earth, as well as seven other planets and their moons.

Every 24 hours, **Earth rotates on its axis**, which is an imaginary line that passes through its centre. This rotation causes the Sun to appear to move across the sky and is what causes the cycle of day and night, as one side faces the Sun and the other side faces away from the Sun.

Each year, many places on Earth experience four **seasons**, each lasting for three months. These are spring, summer, autumn and winter

Satellites are natural or artificial objects that orbit round other objects such as planets and stars.

The Moon is Earth's natural satellite. It is made of rock and metal, is approximately spherical and is a quarter of the diameter of Earth.

Vocabulary

Celestial body – Any natural object found in space, such as a planet, star or moon.

Planet – A large object in space that orbits a star and does not make its own light.

Star – A giant ball of hot gas in space that gives out light and heat.

Moon – A natural object that orbits a planet.

Galaxy – A huge collection of stars, planets, gas and dust held together by gravity.

Solar system – A star and all the planets and objects that orbit around it.

Satellite – An object that orbits a planet or star; it can be natural, like a moon, or man-made.

Orbit – The path an object takes as it moves around another object in space.

The Eight Planets of the Solar System

A **planet** is a large **celestial body** that **orbits** a **star**. **Planets** are roughly **spherical** in shape.

There are eight **planets orbiting** round the **Sun** in the **Solar System**, some made of rock and metal (the terrestrial **planets**) and some made of gas and ice (the gas and ice giants).

