

Year 5 Autumn Term EARTH AND SPACE

SUN

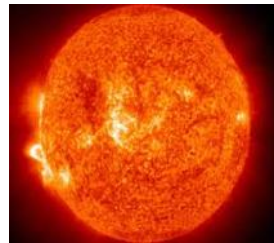
The sun is actually a star at the centre of our **solar system** which is made up of 8 planets in total including earth. The sun is 15 million degrees hot at its centre and 1.3 million times bigger than earth! The order of the planets from nearest to the sun to furthest is:

Mercury
Venus
Earth
Mars
Jupiter
Saturn
Uranus
Neptune

These planets are in our solar system because they all **orbit** (go round) our sun.

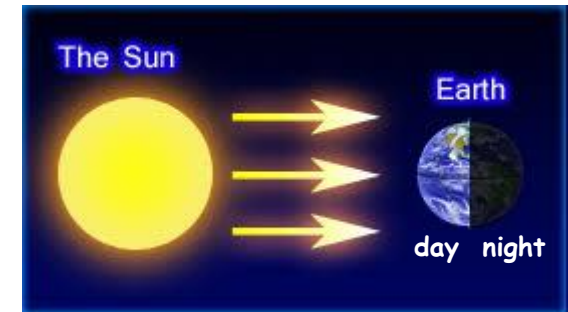
To help you remember this order learn this sentence:
My **v**ery **e**nthusiastic **m**other **j**ust **s**erved **u**s **n**oodles.'

The earth, moon and sun are all **spheres**.



EARTH

Our planet earth is the third planet from the sun. As well as orbiting the sun we are also rotating (turning) and as we turn a different part of the earth faces the sun and therefore its light. It takes us **24 hours** or one day to turn once. So when the sun appears to move in the sky during the day, in fact we are moving and the sun is staying still. When our part of the earth is no longer able to see the sun, we are in darkness and it is night until we turn to see the sun once again in the morning.



MOON

A moon is a **celestial body** (a natural body outside earth's atmosphere) that orbits a planet. We have only one moon but Jupiter has four large moons and several small ones! The moon has no light of its own but it reflects the sun's light. Once the face of the Moon is fully turned towards the Sun, it's a **Full Moon**, and we see it all. But, as the Moon moves around the Earth, the face pointing towards us gradually becomes hidden from the Sun until we can hardly see it at all. This takes one lunar month (29.5 days).



Waxing means the moon looks like it is getting bigger. **Waning** means it looks like it is getting smaller.

Warning it is **NEVER** safe to look directly at the sun even wearing sunglasses.