

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Earth** – the name of the **planet** we live on

**Solar system** - is the term used to describe a collection of planets (and their moons) which **orbit** around a star

**Orbit** – to move around another object on a curved path

**The Sun** – a huge **star** that the **planets orbit** around

**Star** – a giant ball of gas, held together by its own **gravity**

**Asteroids** – rocky objects smaller than **moons**

**Rocky planets** – Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars (all made from rocks and metals, with a solid surface)

**Gas planets** – Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune (much bigger and are actually balls of hydrogen and helium so don't have a solid surface)

**Moon** – a natural satellite that orbits Earth or other planets

**Rotate** – to spin. The **Earth rotates** on its axis

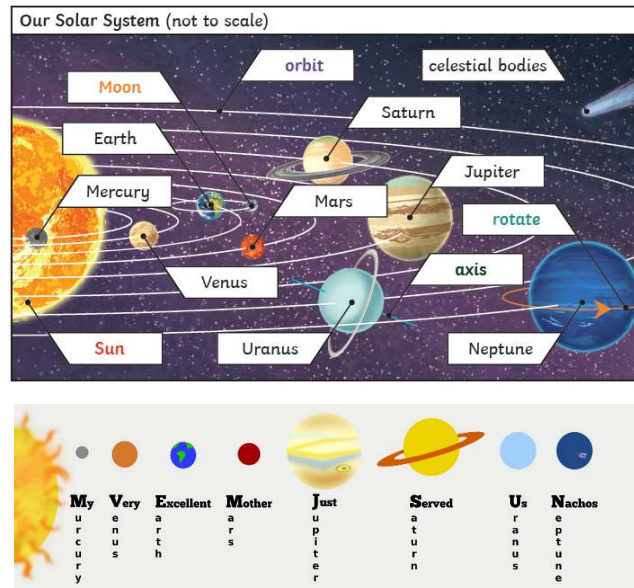
**Spherical** – a round 3D shape like a ball

**Time zones** – while it is daytime on the side of the **Earth** that is facing the **Sun**, it is night-time on the side facing away

**Tilt** – a sloping position. **Earth** is on a **tilt** of 23.5°

**Hemisphere** – half of a sphere

**Gravity** – the force by which a **planet** or other body draws objects toward its centre



Earth is the name of the planet we live on. Earth is estimated to be about 4.5 billion years old and is part of a solar system.

Earth is one of eight planets that travel around (orbit) the Sun. Each planet takes a different amount of time to orbit the Sun.

The planets are called Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Mnemonics help us to remember their order.



The time it takes Earth to travel around the Sun is 365 ¼ days. We call 365 days one year and every four years we have a 'leap year' (366 days) so that the four extra 'quarter days' are caught up with.

Earth spins at around 1000 miles an hour but it takes it 24 hours to complete a full rotation (this is what we call a day). While it is daytime on the side of the Earth that is facing the Sun, it is night-time on the side facing away. This is why we have different time zones around the world.

Although we use phrases such as "the sun coming up" or "setting", it is actually Earth's rotation making it appear this way.

