



# EARTH and SPACE

## Assessment question: How does our solar system move?

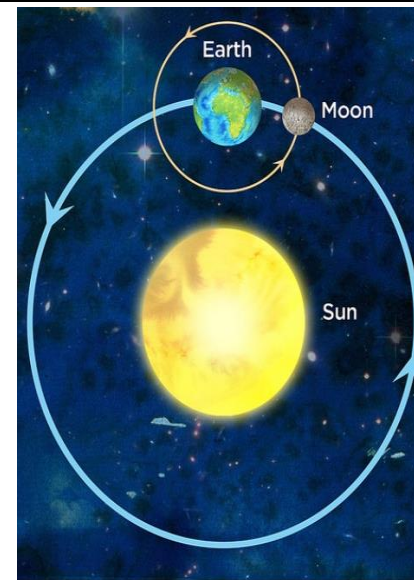


### Overview



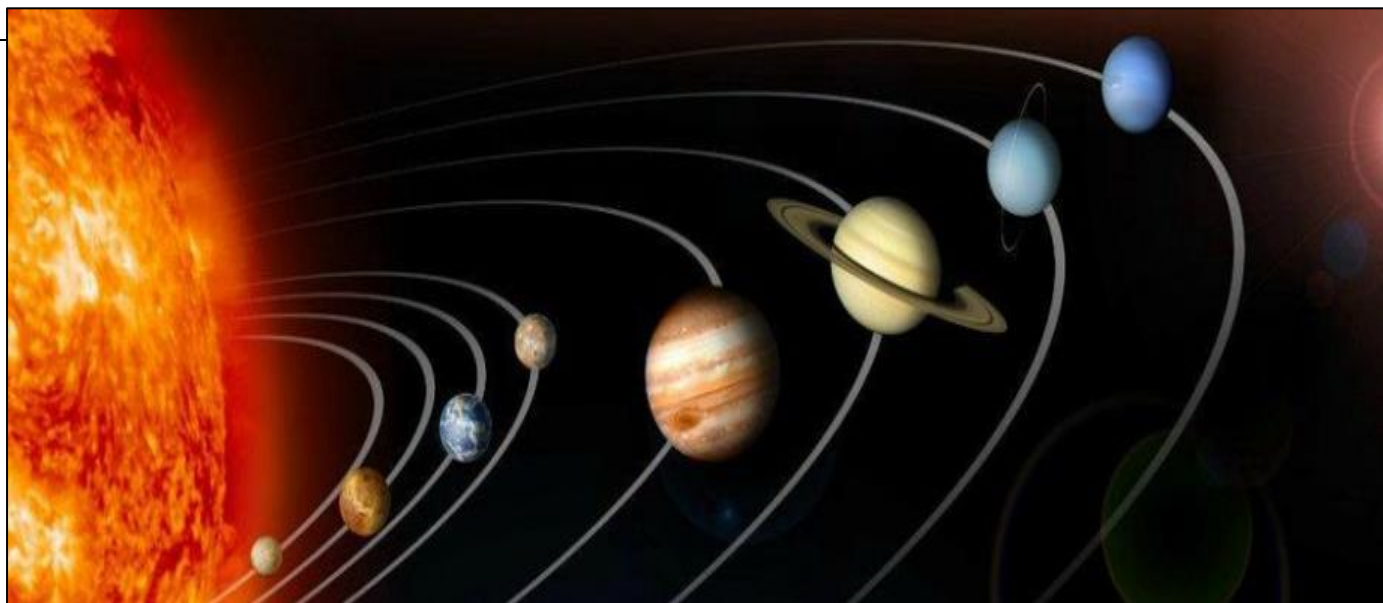
- The Earth (our planet) is a part of the Solar System. At the centre of the Solar System is the Sun. The Sun is a star.
- There are 8 planets and 5 dwarf planets in the Solar System, which orbit (go around) the Sun.
- It takes Earth just over 365 days to go around the Sun (one year).
- The Earth rotates on its axis once every 24 hours (one day). This causes day and night, as different parts of the planet face the Sun.
- The Moon orbits around the Earth. The Sun, Earth and Moon are all roughly spherical.

### The Sun and the Moon



- It takes the Earth just over 365 days to make one complete orbit around the Sun – this is one year. The Earth and other planets are held in place around the Sun by gravity – the same force that keeps you on the Earth!
- The Earth is always spinning around. When a point on Earth is facing the Sun, it is daytime. When facing away, it is nighttime. It takes 24 hours for the Earth to complete a spin (one day).
- Some objects orbit around the planets. These are called moons. The Earth has one moon (just called The Moon). The Moon is much smaller than the Earth, and takes one full day to complete an orbit around the Earth.

### The Solar System



### Key Vocabulary

- solar system
- earth
- sun
- moon
- planet
- dwarf planet
- spherical
- rotation
- axis
- orbit
- Mercury
- Venus
- Mars
- Jupiter
- Saturn
- Uranus
- Neptune
- Pluto

Mercury



Venus



Earth



Mars



Jupiter



Saturn



Uranus



Neptune

