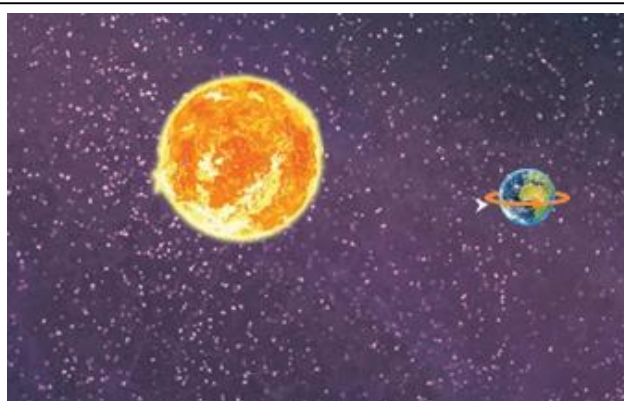


Key Enquiry Question: What is the relationship and key features of some planets?

**National Curriculum**

- describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the sun in the solar system
- describe the movement of the moon relative to the Earth
- describe the sun, Earth and moon as approximately spherical bodies
- use the idea of the Earth’s rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky



Key Vocabulary	Meaning
<b>Sun</b>	A huge star that Earth and the other planets in our solar system orbit around.
<b>star</b>	A giant ball of gas held together by its own gravity.
<b>moon</b>	A natural satellite which orbits Earth or other planets.
<b>planet</b>	A large object, round or nearly round, that orbits a star.
<b>sphere</b>	A round 3D shape in the shape of a ball.
<b>satellite</b>	Any object or body in space that orbits something else, for example: the Moon is a satellite of Earth.
<b>orbit</b>	To move in a regular, repeating curved path around another object.
<b>rotate</b>	To spin. E.g. Earth rotates on its own axis.
<b>axis</b>	An imaginary line that a body rotates around. E.g. Earth’s <b>axis</b> (imaginary line) runs from the North Pole to the South Pole.

**Sticky Knowledge**

- Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are rocky planets. They are mostly made up of metal and rock.
- Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are mostly made up of gases (helium and hydrogen) although they do have cores made up of rock and metal.
- Earth rotates (spins) on its axis.
- It does a full rotation once in every 24 hours.
- It takes a little more than 365 days to orbit the Sun.
- Daytime occurs when the side of Earth is facing towards the Sun. Night occurs when the side of Earth is facing away from the Sun.
- The Moon orbits Earth in an oval-shaped path while spinning on its axis. At various times in a month, the Moon appears to be different shapes.