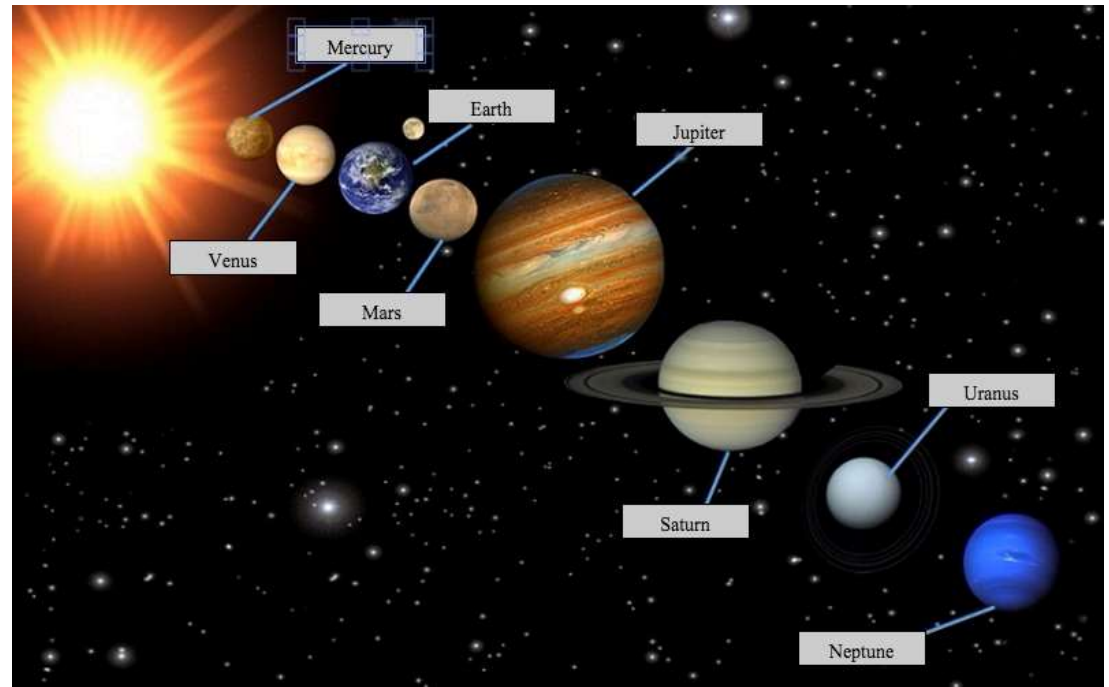


Key vocabulary	
Sun	A huge star that Earth and the other planets in our solar system orbit around.
star	A giant ball of gas held together by its own gravity.
moon	A natural satellite which orbits Earth or other planets.
planet	A large object, round or nearly round, that orbits a star.
sphere	A round 3D shape in the shape of a ball.
spherical bodies	Astronomical objects shaped like spheres.
satellite	Any object or body in space that orbits something else.
orbit	To move in a regular, repeating curved path around another object.
rotate	To spin.
axis	An imaginary line that a body rotates around.
geocentric model	A belief people used to have that other planets and the Sun orbited around the Earth.
heliocentric model	The structure of the Solar System where the planets orbit around the sun.
astronomer	Someone who studies or is an expert in astronomy (space science)

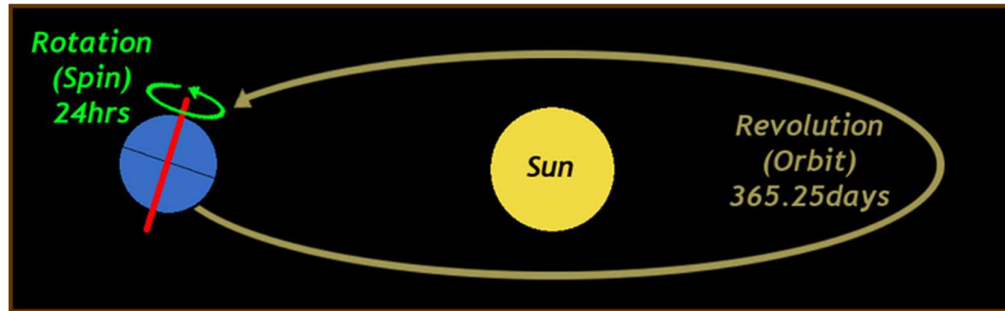


Key Knowledge

- 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.
- The Moon orbits Earth in an oval-shaped path, while spinning on its axis. At various time in a month, the Moon appears to be different shapes. This is because as the Moon rotates round the Earth, the Sun lights up different parts of it.
- Pluto used to be considered a planet but was reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006.

Key Knowledge

It appears to us that the Sun moves across the sky during the day but the Sun does not move at all. It seems to us the Sun moves because of the movements of the Earth.



Earth rotates (spins) on its axis. It does a full rotation once in every 24 hours. At the same time that Earth is rotating, it is also orbiting (revolving) around the Sun. It takes a little more than 365 days to orbit the Sun. Daytime occurs when the side of the Earth is facing towards the Sun. Night occurs when the side of Earth is facing away from the Sun.

Historical models

Geocentric model: Years ago, people believed that planets moved around the Earth.

Heliocentric model: The concept we believe now where the planets move around the Sun.

The work and ideas of many astronomers (such as Copernicus and Kepler) combined over many years helped develop the heliocentric model. Galileo's work on gravity allowed astronomers to understand how planets stayed in orbit.

