



Topic: Destination: Outer Space

Year: Year 5

Term: Autumn 2

Background Information

- The planet we live on is Earth.
- There are other planets in our Solar System.
- Earth is the only planet with known life.
- Our Earth has imaginary lines including the Equator, the lines of latitude and the lines of longitude.
- The Earth spins anti-clockwise on it's own axis.
- Gravity is a force that pulls to the centre of the Earth.

Know how to / Activity

Why does the Moon appear to change shape? Use your Moon diary to learn about the phases of the Moon through observing the Moon each night.

Name all of the planets in order of distance from the Sun.

Why do our shadows change length throughout the day?

As a year group, we will be exploring various Space related books, some in Guided Reading also.

Interesting facts

The Sun is at the centre of our Solar System which is known as heliocentric. Although historically it was believed that our Solar System was geocentric meaning everything orbited around the Earth instead.

Day and night is caused by the spinning of the Earth on its axis, once every 24 hours.

Although, the sun appears to move across the sky from East to West, in fact it stays still. The rotation of the Earth (spinning on its axis) makes the Sun appear to move across the sky.

Each lunar month is 28 days. See the diagram below for the names of the eight different phases.

There is a mnemonic to help you remember the order of the planets: "My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Names".

In 1930 Pluto was considered one of our planets. It was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh, however, it was reclassified as dwarf planet in 2006. Not all astronomers agree with this decision.

Key Vocabulary

Axis	An imaginary line about which a body rotates
Earth	The planet third in order from the Sun which we live on.
Equator	A line drawn on the Earth equidistant from the North and South poles
Hemisphere	Any circle drawn around the Earth divides it into two equal halves called hemispheres.
Moon	The natural satellite of the Earth
Orbit	The curved path of an object or spacecraft round a star, planet, or moon
Planet	A celestial body moving in an orbit round a star.
Satellite	A body orbiting the Earth or another planet.
Shadow	A dark area or shape produced by a body coming between rays of light and a surface
Solar System	The collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit round the sun
Sphere	A round solid figure.
Sun	The star which the Earth orbits around.
Tropics	The regions of the Earth surrounding the Equator
Waning	These are the phases of the moon between full Moon and new Moon.
Waxing	These are the phases of the moon between new Moon and full Moon.

Diagrams / Timelines / Photos

