



Night and Day

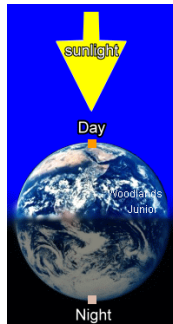
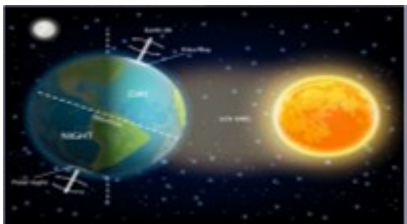
Daytime is when you can see the sun from where you are, and its light and heat can reach you.

Night-time is when the sun is on the other side of the Earth from you, and its light and heat don't get to you.

We get day and night because the Earth spins (or rotates) on an imaginary line called its **axis** and different parts of the planet are facing towards the sun or away from it.

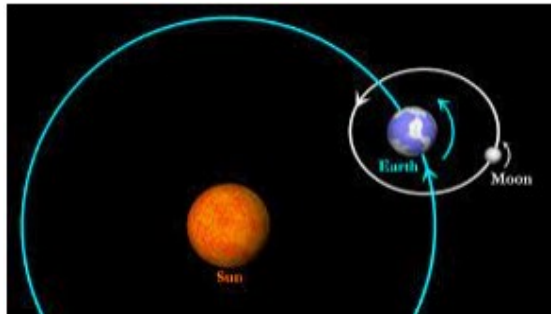
It takes 24 hours for the earth to turn all the way around (rotate), and we call this 'a day'.

Over a year (365 days), the length of the daytime in the part of the Earth where you live changes. Days are longer in the summer and shorter in the winter.



At any moment, half of the world is in daytime and half is in night-time.

The Sun, Moon and Earth



The Sun:

The sun is a star. It is the centre of our solar system. Eight planets (Earth, Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, Mars, Uranus and Neptune) travel around the sun.

The Earth:

Earth takes 365 ¼ days to complete its orbit around the sun. The earth rotates (spins) on its axis. The earth spins slowly all of the time but we don't feel any movement because it turns smoothly and at the same speed.

The Moon:

The moon orbits the earth. It takes about 28 days to complete its orbit.

The sun, earth and moon are approximately spherical bodies



Vocabulary

Solar system	Is made up of the sun and the planets that move around it
Spherical	Shaped like a sphere (like a ball)
Rotates	To spin around an axis
Orbits	The path that an object takes in space
Axis	An imaginary line an object turns around. This line runs directly through the centre of the object
Star	Huge, glowing balls of gases. The closest star to earth is the sun.
Planets	Large natural objects that orbit (travel) around stars

