

Planet Earth facts

The planet Earth is a **sphere**. It is about 4.5 billion years old.

Earth spins at 1000 miles per hour. It takes 24 hours to complete a full rotation.

It's daytime on the side of the Earth that faces the Sun and night time on the side that is facing away.

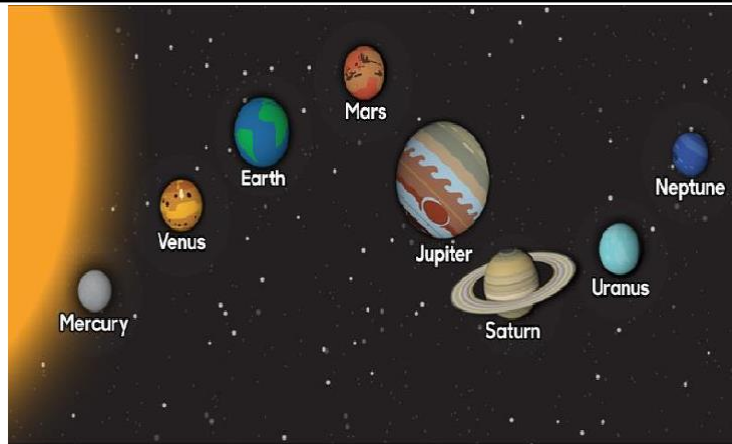
As the Earth rotates on its **axis**, shadows that are formed change in size and orientation

As it is night in some parts of the world while it is day in other parts, different places in the world have different times. This is why the world is divided into 24 different time zones. One for each hour in a day.

The Earth takes $365\frac{1}{4}$ days to travel around the Sun.

Planet Earth has one moon, which is held in **orbit** by gravity.

Earth is the third planet from the Sun. The Earth is the only planet in our solar system not to be named after a Greek or Roman deity



Solar system facts

The Sun is a star.

The Earth is one of eight planets that travel around the Sun in our **solar system**

The planets are called **Mercury**, **Venus**, **Earth**, **Mars**, **Jupiter**, **Saturn**, **Uranus** and **Neptune**.

The solar system is also home to lots of asteroids, moons, and **dwarf planets** such as Pluto.

An easy way to remember the names of planets in order is:

My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Naming.

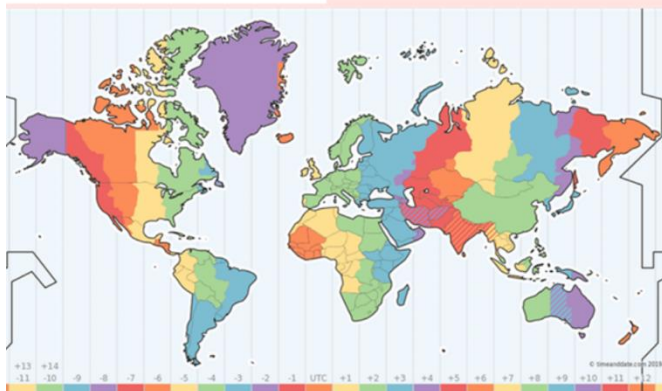
Time in countries to the east of the Prime Meridian are always in front of that of the UK.

Time in countries to the west of the Prime Meridian are Always behind that of the UK.

Key Vocab

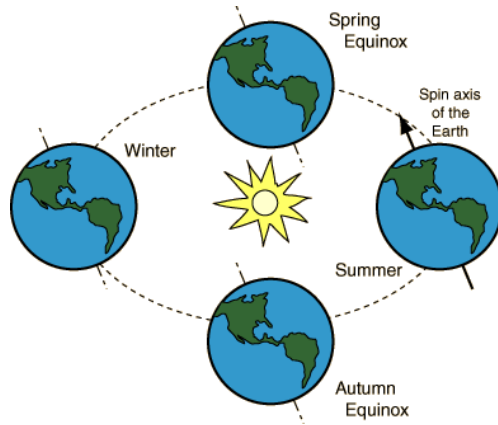
Sphere	A three dimensional version of a circle, like a football or a marble
Solar System	The solar system consists of the sun and everything that orbits, or travels around, the sun
Orbit	The path taken by one body circling around another body The earth makes an orbit around the sun
Dwarf Planet	Planets similar to the solar system's eight planets but are smaller
Axis	an imaginary line through the middle of something
Time Zone	A time zone refers to any region where the same standard time is kept
Astronaut	a person who travels beyond the earth's atmosphere
astronomy	The study of astronomy involve s all of the objects outside Earth's atmosphere

Time Zones

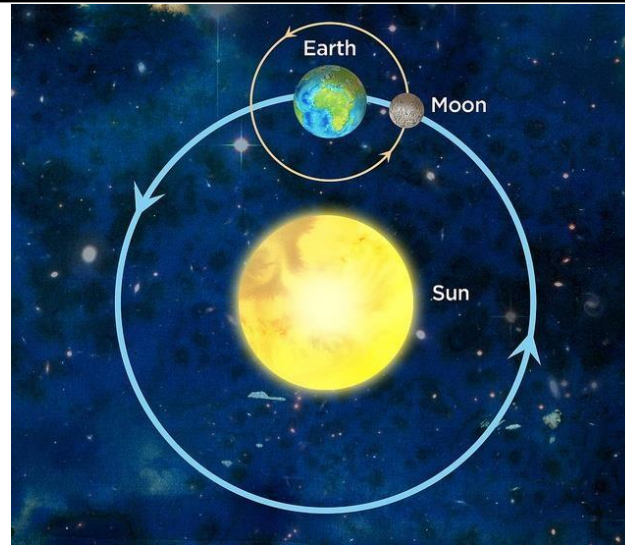


The Earth

The Earth rotates one complete turn every 24 hours to give us day and night. When Britain faces the Sun it is daytime in Britain but the other side of the world is in darkness. So, in Australia it is the middle of the night.



Earth rotates on an axis. During the winter, the North Pole is tilted away from the Sun's rays. As Earth travels around the Sun, the tilt of Earth changes. By June, the North Pole is tilted towards the Sun and the days become very long. Earth takes a year to orbit the Sun and it is the tilt which creates the seasons.

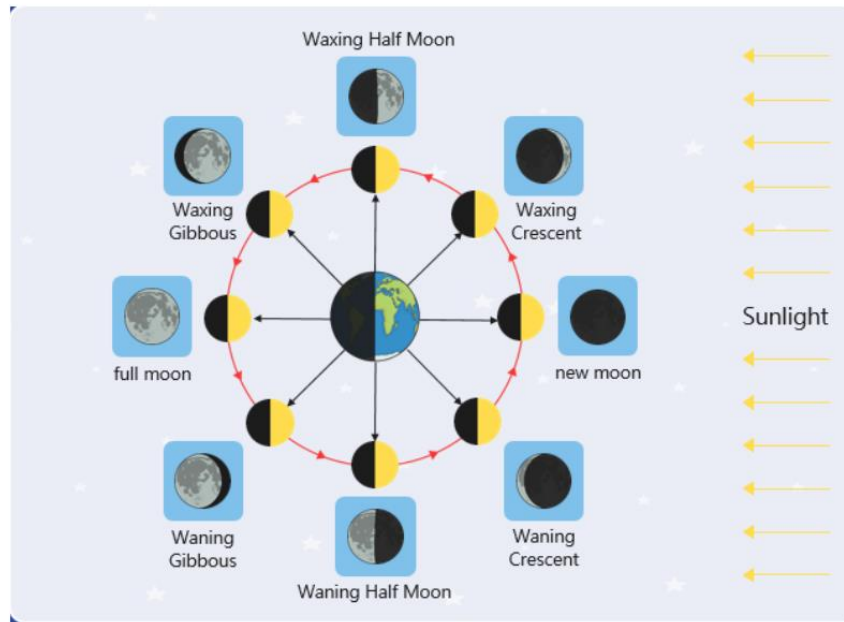


The Moon

The Moon orbits the Earth anticlockwise and takes approximately 28 days.

The Moon spins once on its axis every time it orbits Earth. This means that we only see one side of the Moon.

The Moon has different phases depending on where it is in its orbit. The Moon's gravity causes high and low tides.



The moon orbits the Earth every 28 days. The only reason we can see the moon is because it reflects light from the sun.

Therefore, as the moon travels around the Earth, we can only see the part of the moon that is facing the sun at the time.

We can only see the part of the moon that reflects the sun's light. How much of that we can see depends upon the position of the moon in its orbit.