

EARTH AND SPACE

Vocabulary

Axis: An imaginary line through the middle of a planet. **Galaxy:** A large group of stars and planets. Our galaxy is called the Milky Way. **Gravity:** The force which causes objects to drop to the ground. **Moon:** A celestial body that orbits around a planet. **Orbit:** The curved path in space that is followed by an object moving around a planet, moon or star. **Planet:** A celestial body which moves in orbit around the sun. It is large enough to have its own gravity. **Solar System:** The Sun and everything that orbits around it. **Sphere:** A round solid shape. **Spin:** Turn quickly around a central point. **Star:** A large ball of burning gas in space with a fixed point.

The Moon

The Moon orbits the Earth anticlockwise and takes approximately 28 days, we call this the lunar month. The Moon spins once on its axis every time it orbits the Earth. This means we only see one side of the Moon.

The Moon has different phases depending on where it is in its orbit. The moon starts off unilluminated, this is called the new moon. As the lunar month continues, more of the moon is illuminated by the Sun until it becomes a full moon.

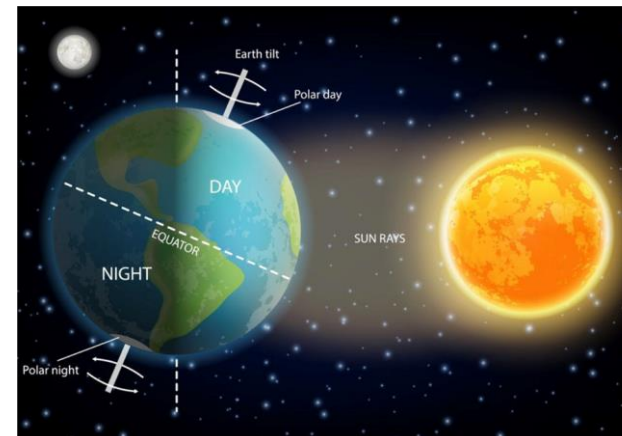
Waxing occurs after a new moon, **Waning** occurs after a full moon.

Day and Night

The Earth rotates on its axis anti-clockwise and makes a complete rotation over 24 hours (a day.) This makes it look like the Sun moves through the sky but the rotation of the Earth causes day and night. Different parts of the Earth experience daylight at different times.

Because of the Earth's tilt, the poles experience 24 hours of sunlight in the summer and very few hours of sunlight in the winter.

Day and Night



Moon's Orbit

