



**Key knowledge:**

**The sun and the earth**

The sun is a star in the centre of the solar system.  
 The earth orbits the sun.  
 The earth is held in its orbit by the sun's gravitational pull.  
 Because the earth rotates, the sun appears to move across the sky but this is not true. The sun doesn't move.  
 When earth is facing the sun, it is daytime.  
 When earth is facing away from the sun, it is night time.

**The moon**

Earth has one moon and it has 8 phases.  
 Some planets have many moons e.g. Jupiter has 4 large moons and many small moons.  
 The moon is held in its orbit by the earth's gravitational pull.  
 The moon appears to change shape because we cannot always see the side of the Moon that's in sunlight.

**The solar system**

The solar system is made up of eight planets

- Mercury
- Venus
- Earth
- Mars
- Jupiter
- Saturn
- Uranus
- Neptune

**Key concepts:**

Describing  
 Understanding

**Possible experiences:**

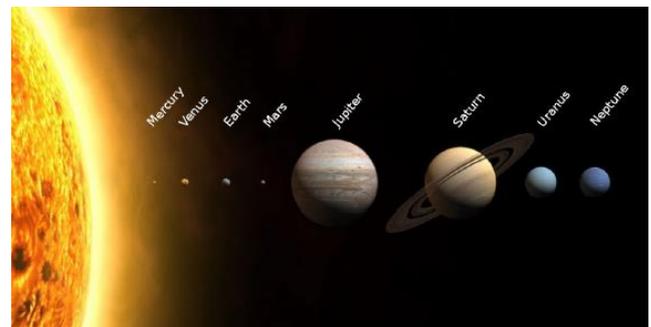
Use pen pals in a different country to establish that the time of day is different in different places.  
 Make a shadow clock or sundial.  
 Create a model of the solar system.  
 Use fruit to show that different planets are different sizes.

**Key vocabulary:**

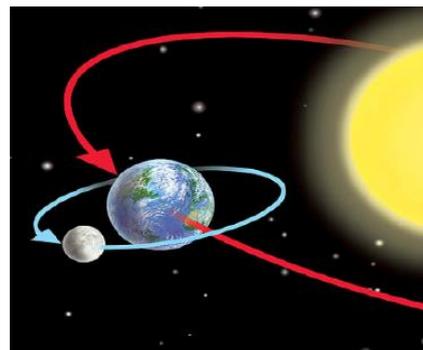
Axis	The imaginary line on which a planet rotates
Gravitational	Moving towards the centre of gravity
Orbit	The curved path an object takes around something such as a star or the sun
Planet	An almost spherical object made of rock, metal and gas
Rotate	Moving in a circle around an axis

**Diagrams:**

Order of the planets



The earth orbiting the sun takes one year  
 The moon orbiting earth which takes around 28 days



The earth spinning in its axis which takes 24 hours

