

Year 5 Earth and Space

Prior Learning

Year 5 – Forces

- Gravity is the force that attracts stars, planets and moons together in space
- Gravity stops the moon from drifting off into space

Year 3 – Light

- Light from the sun causes daylight on earth. It is only day time on the half of the earth that is facing the sun
- The absence of light is called a 'shadow'. At night time, we are simply in Earth's shadow

Key Vocabulary

System: A set of things working together as parts of a network

Organisation: The way in which the elements of a whole are arranged

Rotation: Spinning or turning on its axis

Orbit: The path of a celestial body going round a star

Solar System: A system of 8 planets orbiting around the sun

Heliocentric: The sun being in the middle of our solar system

Key Facts

- 1) The moon orbits (goes around) the earth and the earth orbits the sun.
- 2) The sun is at the centre of the solar system
- 3) Planets orbit the sun because the sun has a strong gravitational pull
- 4) Day and night happen because the earth rotates. Whichever side of the earth is facing the sun is in daytime.
- 5) Some people, long ago, thought that the earth was flat and that the sun went around the earth,. They were wrong about both!
- 6) Pluto is NOT a planet! It was downgraded to a dwarf planet in 2006

Images and Icons

