

Solar system

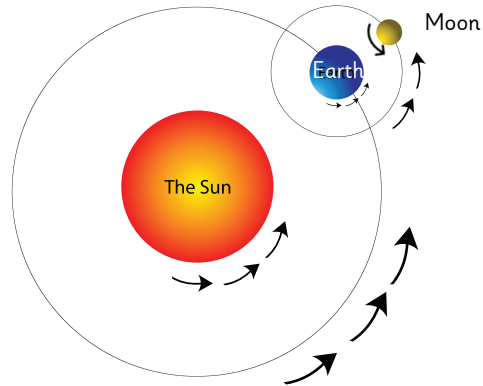
8 planets orbit the Sun

The Sun's gravitational force holds planets in orbit

orbit = curved path around star or planet

Earth orbits the Sun once every 365 ¼ days

The Sun, the Earth and the Moon are approximately spherical bodies



Moon

Our view of the Moon changes as it orbits Earth

phases – the changing shape of the Moon

Lunar month – a complete cycle of the Moon's phases

The Moon doesn't change shape – the light reflected changes as the Moon orbits the Earth

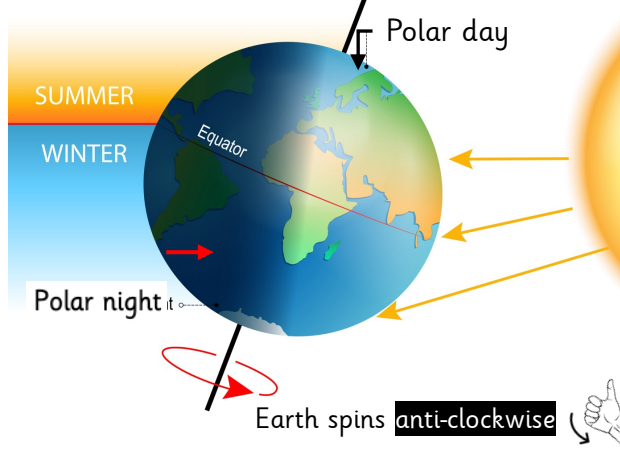
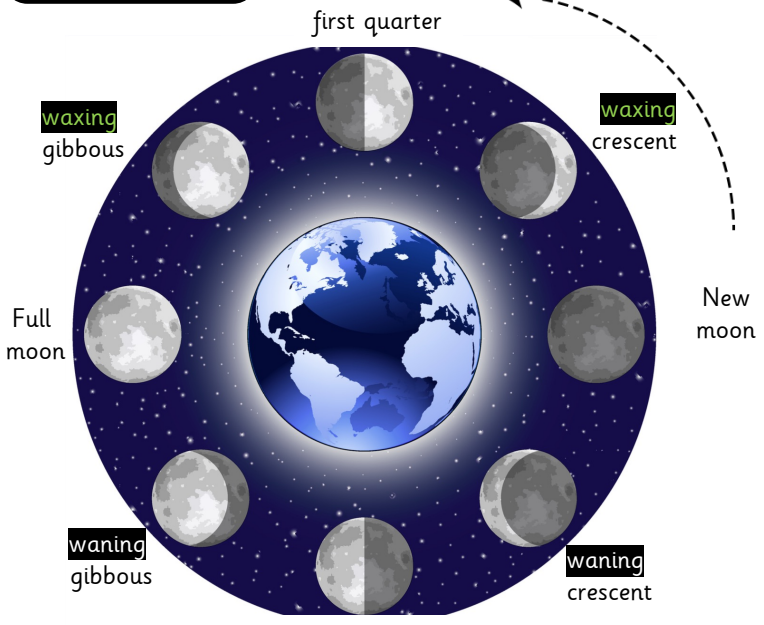
The Earth is already tilted at 23.5 degrees. It spins whilst orbiting around the Sun. This means that at various points on its annual journey, different parts of the Earth are closer or further away.

moon phases

waxing increase

waning decrease

gibbous – in between half and full moon



Right 'thumbs up' – fingers tell you the spin direction of the Earth