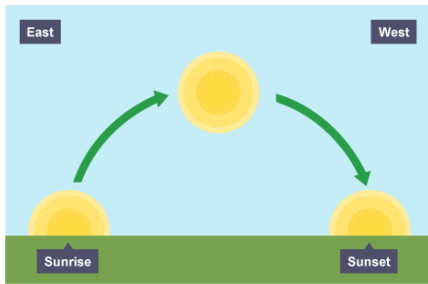
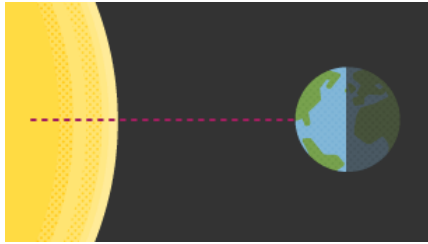
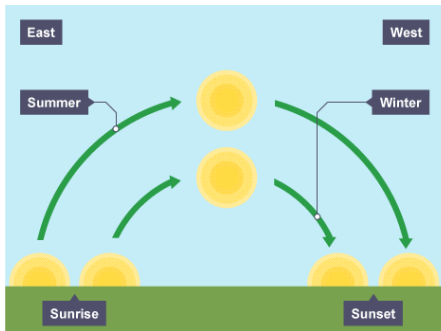


The Solar System

As the earth spins, the sun appears to move across the sky. The earth spins anticlockwise. The sun rises in the east and sets in the west.



The length of the day (the time when the Sun shines on a particular part of the world) changes during the year, unless you are on the equator. Everywhere else, daytime is longest in the summer and shortest in the winter. In winter, the Sun still appears to rise in the east and set in the west, but it does not climb so high in the sky as it does in the summer.



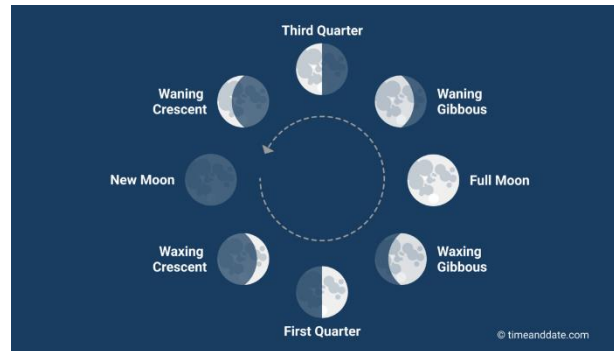
The Earth's axis is the imaginary line through the centre of the Earth between the South and North poles about which the Earth rotates. This axis is tilted slightly compared with the way the Earth orbits the Sun.



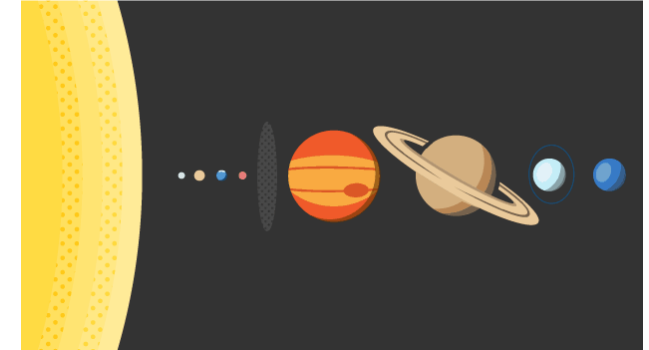
We get different seasons (winter, spring, summer and autumn) because the Earth's axis is tilted. This is how it works:

- it is summer in the UK when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun
- it is winter in the UK when the northern hemisphere is tilted away from the Sun

The Moon is Earth's only natural satellite (a celestial body that orbits a planet). It takes the moon 29.5 days to go through its eight different 'phases' - a lunar month.



The solar system consists of the Sun, with planets and smaller objects such as asteroids and comets in orbit around it.



The planets

There are eight planets in the solar system. Starting with Mercury, which is the closest to the Sun, the planets are:

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

This sentence is a way to remember the correct order:
My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Naming

Scientists believe the Universe began in a hot 'big bang' about 13,700 million years ago. Scientists have gathered a lot of evidence and information about the Universe. They have used their observations to develop the theory called the Big Bang. The theory states that about 13.7 billion years ago all the matter in the Universe was concentrated into a single incredibly tiny dense and hot point. This began to enlarge rapidly and it is still expanding today. As the universe expands it cools.



