

Science Knowledge Organiser—Earth and Space

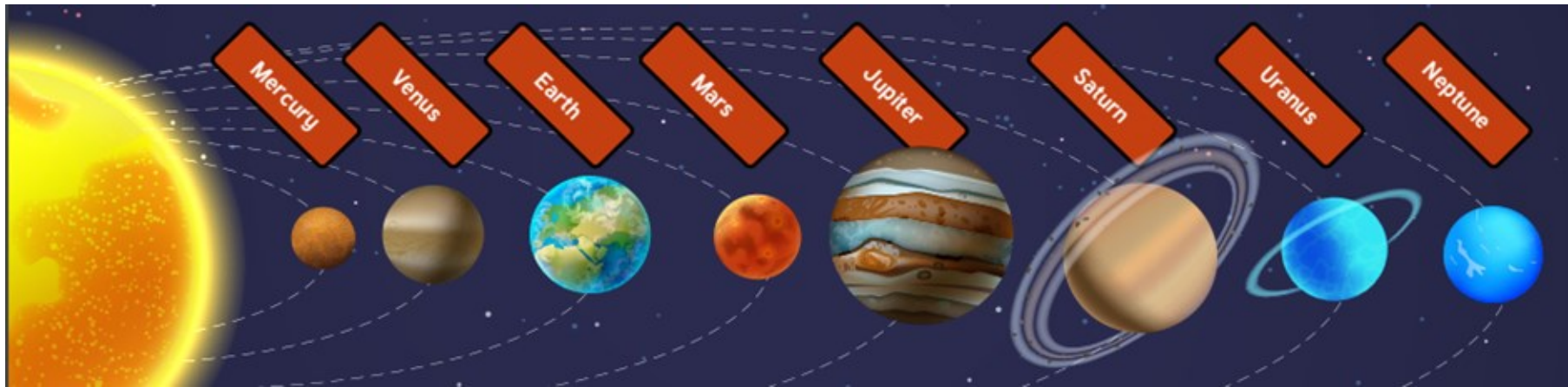
Curriculum Objectives

By the end of this unit, your child will be able to:

- Describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as spherical.
- Name and order the planets in the solar system independently.
- Distinguish between heliocentric and geocentric ideas of planetary movement.
- Explain that day and night is due to rotation of the Earth.
- Explain how the Moon moves relative to the Earth.



In our Solar System, there are 8 planets. They all orbit The Sun which sits in the centre. The planets closest to The Sun are the hottest and the planets furthest away are the coldest. Our planet, Earth, is just at the right temperature for life.



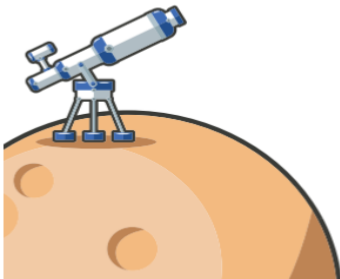
Key facts

People used to think the Earth was flat! Around 350 BC, a scientist named Aristotle provided evidence that it was actually a sphere.

The Sun is not a planet! It is a star. It is at the centre of our Solar System and gives light and heat to all the planets in it.

We are not the only planet with a moon. Some planets have more moons than us!

There used to be 9 planets in our Solar System. There was a planet called Pluto that was even further away than Neptune.



Key Vocabulary/Terminology

Solar System	The name given to our sun and 8 planets and their moons.
Star	An object in space made of luminous plasma (bright gas) held together by its own gravity.
Planet	An object in space that orbits a star.
Orbit	The curved path around a star, planet or moon.
Dwarf Planet	A small planet.
Waxing	In the terms of the phases of the moon, this means growing.
Waning	In the terms of the phases of the moon, this means shrinking.