



Space & Gravity Knowledge Organiser

Key vocabulary

Solar System	A collection of planets and moons in orbit around the sun, along with asteroids and comets
Planets	A body moving in an elliptical orbit around a star
Orbit	A curved path of a celestial object round a star or planet
Star	A giant ball of gas in the centre of a solar system that all planets orbit around.
Moon	A natural satellite that orbits a planet
Rotating	To move or cause to move around an axis or centre
Day	A complete rotation of a planet on its axis, on Earth equal to 24 hours
Year	A complete orbit by a planet around its star, on Earth equal to 365.25 days
Galaxy	A system of millions or billions of stars with gas and dust held together by gravity
Universe	All existing matter and space as a whole. Contains all galaxies and has been continually expanding since its formation 13.9 billion years ago
Asteroid	A small rocky body orbiting the sun. Many are found between Mars and Jupiter.
Comet	An object consisting of rock and ice orbiting the sun.
Gravity	The force that attracts a body towards the centre of the earth or any other body with mass.
Mass	A quantity of matter measured in kg.

The Earth & Moon

The moon orbits Earth in an oval-shaped path whilst it spins on its axis. At different times in the month the moon appears to be different shapes, this is because the sun lights up different parts of the moon as the moon moves around the Earth



The Earth & Moon

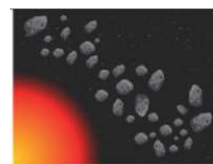
Earth rotates (spins) on its axis, it does a full spin once every 24 hours, which is our day and night. Daytime occurs when the side of the Earth is facing the sun and night occurs when the side of the Earth is facing away from the sun



Meteor



Meteorite



Asteroid



Comet

Solar System

The Sun



A very hot ball of gas where nuclear fusion happens

Mercury



Venus



Earth



Mars



Jupiter



Saturn



Uranus



Neptune



Inner rocky planets

- Closer to the Sun
- Mostly solid rock
- The warmer planets
- Smaller
- Take less time to orbit the sun

Outer gas giants

- Further away from the Sun
- Mostly made from gas
- The colder planets
- Often have rings
- of dust and rock around them
- Larger
- Take more time to orbit the sun

