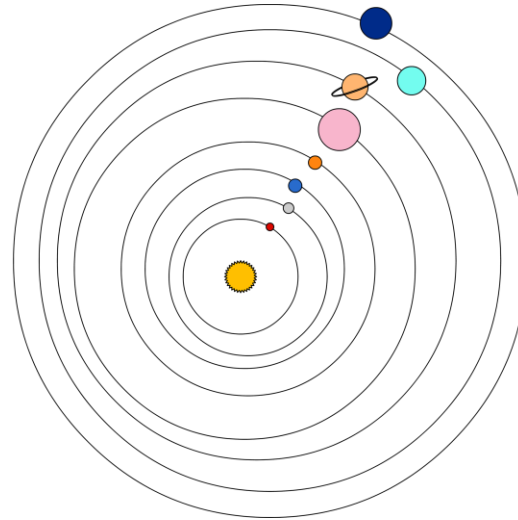




Key Facts:

- It takes the Earth 365.25 days to orbit the sun, which is why every four years we have a leap year of 366 days, to catch up with the orbit.
- The Earth takes 24 hours to spin on its axis and complete one rotation, which is why our days are 24 hours long.
- We are constantly attracted to the Earth by its gravitational force. The reason the Moon doesn't fall to Earth because of gravity is because it constantly moves around us. Without the Earth's gravity, it would float away into space.
- Comets are chunks of ice and rock with tails that orbit a long way around the sun.
- Asteroids are chunks of rock and metal that orbit more closely to the sun.
- Meteors are fragments of asteroids that fly into the Earth's atmosphere and catch fire, leaving a bright streak in the sky.



FROM THE SUN
OUTWARDS:

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

Key Scientists:

Nicolaus Copernicus –

An astronomer known for his ideas about the sun and the Earth. His main idea was that our world is heliocentric. His theory was that the sun is in the middle of our solar system and the planets go around it.

Stephen Hawking –

An English theoretical physicist and mathematician who studied the structure of the universe.

Mae Jemison –

An American engineer, physician and former NASA astronaut who became the first black woman to travel into space.

Key Vocabulary:

- heliocentric
- geocentric
- solar system
- astronomy
- Big Bang Theory
- gravitational force
- orbit
- hemisphere
- axis
- eclipse
- mass
- celestial
- astronomy
- universe
- phase
- waxing
- waning
- illuminate
- season