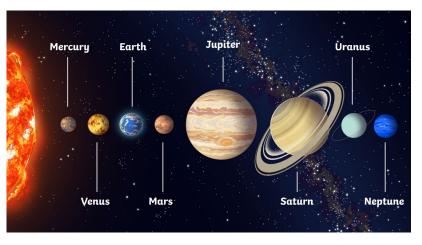
Vocabulary

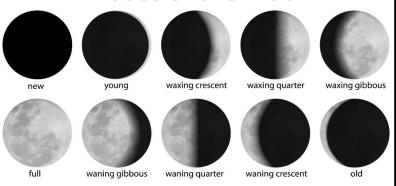
planet	A large object that orbits a star.
sun	A huge star that Earth and the other planets in our solar system orbit around
moon	A natural satellite which orbits Earth and other planets.
solar system	The solar system is made of the eight planets that orbit our sun; it is also made of asteroids, moons, comets and lots more.
axis	An imaginary line that a body rotates around. E.g. Earth's axis (imaginary line) runs from the North Pole to the South Pole.
star	A burning mass of gas that makes heat and light energy (E.g. the sun).
constellation	A constellation is a group of stars forming a recognizable pattern that is traditionally named after its apparent form or identified with a mythological figure
phases of the moon	The phases of the moon are how the moon looks from Earth when it is lit up by the sun. The moon does not make its own light.
orbit	To move in a regular, repeating curved path around another object.
geocentric model	A belief people used to have that other planets and the Sun orbited around Earth.
heliocentric model	The structure of the Solar System where the planets orbit around the Sun

Space





Phases of the Moon



Key Knowledge

Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are rocky planets. They are mostly made up of metal and rock. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are mostly made up of gases (helium and hydrogen) although they do have cores made up of rock and metal

The Moon orbits Earth in an oval-shaped path while spinning on its axis. At various times in a month, the Moon appears to be different shapes. This is because as the Moon rotates round Earth, the Sun lights up different parts of it.

Earth rotates (spins) on its axis. It does a full rotation once in every 24 hours. At the same time that Earth is rotating, it is also orbiting (revolving) around the Sun. It takes a little more than 365 days to orbit the Sun. Daytime occurs when the side of Earth is facing towards the Sun. Night occurs when the side of Earth is facing away from the Sun.

The work and ideas of many astronomers (such as Copernicus and Kepler) combined over many years before the idea of the heliocentric model was developed. Galileo's work on gravity allowed astronomers to understand how planets stayed in orbit.

Geocentric model Years ago people believed that planets moved around the Earth.

It appears to us that the Sun moves across the sky during the day but the Sun does not move at all. It seems to us that the Sun moves because of the movements of Earth.