



Year 5/6 Reach for the Stars!

Amazing Facts

- 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.
- Pluto used to be considered a planet but was reclassified as a Dwarf Planet in 2006.
- 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 around Earth, the sun lights up different parts of it.
- Earth rotates on its axis. It does a full rotation once every 24 hours. While the Earth is rotating, it is also orbiting around the Sun. It takes a little more than 365 days to orbit the Sun.



Key People

- Neil Armstrong
- Tim Peake
- Helen Sharman
- Alan Bean
- Nicolaus Copernicus
- Claudius Ptolemy

The Big Picture

What I should know:

- I recognise light from the sun can be dangerous and can find ways to protect my eyes.
- I recognise that we need light to see things and that dark is the absence of light.

What I will know:

- The movement of the Earth and other planets.
- The movement of the moon, relative to the Earth.
- To describe the Sun, Earth, and Moon as approximately spherical bodies.
- To explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky.

Links to future topics:

- Year 7 – explain the effects of the motion of the Sun, Earth, and Moon.

Glossary

Sun – a huge star that Earth and other planets in our solar system orbit around.

Star – a giant ball of gas held together by its own gravity.

Moon – a natural satellite which orbits Earth or other planets.

Planet – a large object round or nearly round that orbits a star.

Satellite – any object or body in space that orbits something else, for example: the moon is a satellite of Earth.

Orbit – to move in a regular repeating curved path around another object.

Axis – an imaginary line that a body rotates around e.g., Earth's axis runs from the North Pole to the South Pole.

Atmosphere – The gases held by gravity around Earth and around other planets. This can also be used to talk about gases around stars.

MOON PHASES



