

Nova's Galactic Guide to the Solar System

Blast off into the cosmos with Nova the Owl and discover the wonders of our neighbourhood in space!

- **The Sun is a massive star at the centre of our solar system, and all eight planets travel around it in a path called an orbit.**
- **Planets are spherical in shape and are held in their orbits by the invisible pull of the Sun's gravity.**
- **The Earth takes 365 days, or one year, to complete a full journey around the Sun.**
- **It takes 24 hours for the Earth to complete one full rotation on its axis, which is what gives us day and night.**
- **Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun, while Neptune is the furthest away and the coldest.**
- **Nova the Owl reminds us that the Moon is a natural satellite that orbits the Earth, not the Sun!**

Did you know? Did you know? Even though it feels like we are standing still, the Earth is spinning on its axis at about 1,000 miles per hour! It also orbits the Sun at a staggering speed of 67,000 miles per hour.

Key vocabulary: Orbit · Solar System · Rotate · Sphere · Axis · Gravity