

Nova's Solar System Expedition

Learning objective: To describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the Sun in the solar system, and to identify the planets in order from the Sun.

Nova the owl has been stargazing and needs your help to organise her flight path. Read the clues provided in the questions to identify the correct planet and place them in the correct sequence starting from the Sun. Use the word bank to ensure your spellings are accurate.

Word bank: Mercury · Venus · Earth · Mars · Jupiter · Saturn · Uranus · Neptune · Sun · Orbit · Axis

1. 1. I am the closest planet to the Sun and orbit it very quickly. Which planet am I? (1 mark)

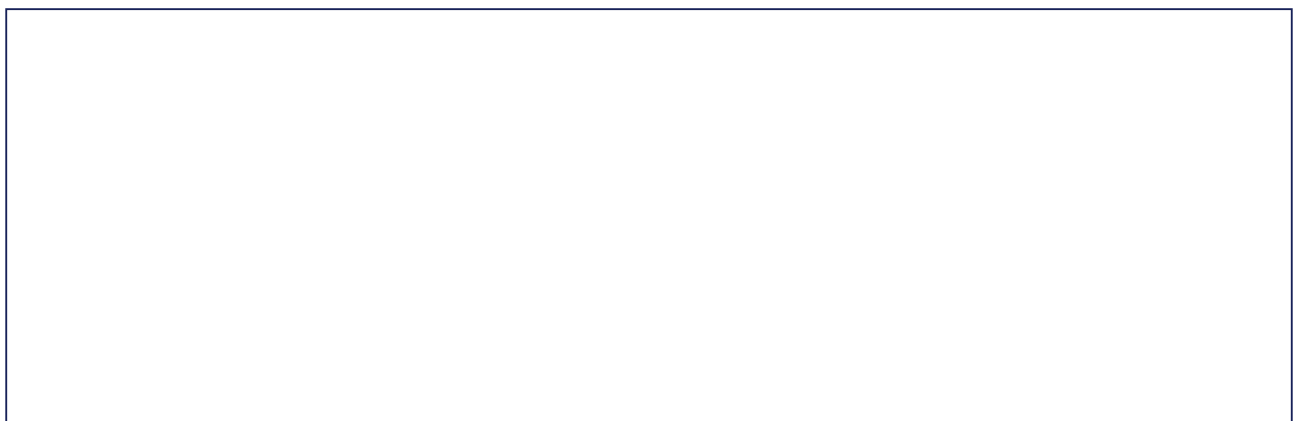
2. 2. I am the third planet from the Sun and the only one known to support life. Which planet am I? (1 mark)

3. 3. I am the largest planet in our solar system, famous for my Great Red Spot. Which planet am I? (1 mark)

4. 4. Nova says the Earth takes 365 days to complete one full trip around the Sun. What is the scientific name for this path? (1 mark)

5. 5. Explain why we have day and night on Earth. Include the terms 'rotation' and 'axis' in your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the solar system showing the Sun in the centre and the eight planets in their correct orbital positions. Label the Earth and the Sun clearly.



Extension challenge: Nova wants to buy a telescope that costs £125.50. If she saves £5.50 each week from her pocket money, how many weeks will it take her to afford the telescope? Show your calculation.