

Nova's Night Sky Adventure

Learning objective: To retrieve information from a text and make inferences about the Earth, Sun, and Moon.

Read the story about Nova the owl. Then, answer the questions below. Use the word bank to help you spell tricky words.

Nova the owl loves to sit in her favourite oak tree. Every night, she looks up at the sky. She watches the bright Moon glowing in the dark. Nova knows that the Moon is not a star. It is a rocky ball that moves around our Earth. During the day, Nova sleeps. She knows the big, hot Sun is shining. The Sun is actually a giant star. Our Earth travels in a circle around the Sun. This takes one whole year. Nova thinks the night sky is like a giant, quiet puzzle. She likes to spot the patterns of stars above the forest. She wonders if other animals are looking at the same Moon. Being an owl is perfect for stargazing because she is awake while the rest of the world is dreaming. She uses her big eyes to see the tiny points of light far away. Nova is happy to learn about space, even if it makes her feel very small compared to the huge, wide universe.

Word bank: orbit · Earth · Sun · Moon · star · night · planet · light

1. What does Nova watch in the sky during the night? (Use the text to help you.) (2 marks)

2. How long does it take for the Earth to travel around the Sun? (2 marks)

3. Why is being an owl good for someone who wants to look at the stars? (2 marks)

4. The text says Nova feels 'very small'. Why might she feel this way? (2 marks)

5. Would you like to stay awake at night to look at the stars like Nova? Why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova the owl sitting in her oak tree looking up at the Moon and the stars.



Extension challenge: Nova wants to know more! Can you find out the name of one other planet in our solar system and write one fact about it?