

Nova's Solar System Fact-File

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

Help Nova the owl map out our solar system! Use your science textbook or library books to research the planets. Fill in each box to build your own space reference guide. Remember to use scientific vocabulary when describing how the planets move.

Word bank: orbit · axis · spherical · gravity · solar system · rotation · Sun · planet

1. The Sun's Role: Explain what the Sun is and why the planets remain in its orbit. (2 marks)

2. Planetary Motion: Describe the difference between a planet's rotation on its axis and its orbit around the Sun. (3 marks)

3. The Earth and Moon: Explain how the Moon moves in relation to the Earth. (2 marks)

4. Planetary Characteristics: Choose one planet (other than Earth) and list two facts about it. (2 marks)

5. Comparing Sizes: If the Sun were the size of a large beach ball, how would you describe the relative size of the planets? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Nova wants to know how long a year is on other planets. Research and write a short paragraph explaining why a 'year' on Mars is longer than a 'year' on Earth.