

Nova's Guide to Our Incredible Solar System

Blast off into the cosmos and discover the wonders of our neighborhood in space!

- The Earth orbits the Sun once every 365.25 days, which is why we add an extra day to our calendar every four years in a leap year.
- Our solar system contains eight planets, all held in their orbits by the massive gravitational pull of the Sun at the center.
- The Earth completes one full rotation on its own axis every 24 hours, causing the cycle of day and night.
- The Moon is a natural satellite that orbits the Earth, taking approximately 28 days to complete one full cycle of phases.
- Planets closer to the Sun, such as Mercury and Venus, have much shorter years than planets further away like Neptune.
- Spherical bodies like planets and stars maintain their round shape due to their own gravity pulling material towards the center.

Did you know? Did you know? If you could drive a car upwards into space at 60 miles per hour, it would take you about 177 days to reach the Moon, but over 4,800 years to reach the Sun!

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