

Nova's Cosmic Journey: Exploring Earth and Space

Look up to the stars with Nova and discover the wonders of our orbital neighbourhood!

- The Earth and the other seven planets in our solar system all travel in a nearly circular path called an orbit around the Sun.
- Because the Earth is a sphere, the Sun illuminates only one half of the planet at any time, creating day on one side and night on the other.
- The Moon does not produce its own light; instead, it reflects the light emitted by the Sun, which is why its appearance seems to change from our perspective on Earth.
- Gravity is the essential force that keeps the planets anchored in their positions and prevents the Moon from drifting away into deep space.
- Earth's axis is tilted at an angle, which is the primary reason we experience the changing seasons as the Earth travels around the Sun.

Did you know? Did you know? The Earth rotates on its axis once every 24 hours, which is why we experience day and night. However, it takes approximately 365 days—a full year—to complete one complete orbit around the Sun. If you look at the Moon tonight, remember that it is held in its orbit around the Earth by the invisible force of gravity!

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