

Nova's Guide to the Cosmic Neighbourhood

Blast off into the vast expanse of space with Nova the owl and explore the rhythms of our solar system!

- **The Sun is a star at the centre of our solar system, and all eight planets are held in their orbits by its immense gravitational pull.**
- **Earth rotates on its axis once every 24 hours, causing the cycle of day and night as different sides of our planet face the Sun.**
- **The planets vary significantly in size and composition, ranging from small, rocky worlds like Mercury to massive gas giants like Jupiter and Saturn.**
- **A year is defined by the time it takes for a planet to complete one full revolution around the Sun; the further a planet is from the Sun, the longer its year lasts.**
- **The Moon is a natural satellite that orbits the Earth, and its changing appearance in our night sky is caused by its position relative to the Earth and the Sun.**

Did you know? Did you know? Even though it feels like the Sun moves across our sky, it is actually the Earth rotating on its axis that creates day and night. It takes the Earth exactly 365.25 days to complete one full orbit around the Sun, which is why we add an extra day to our calendar every four years—a Leap Year!

Key vocabulary: Solar System · Orbit · Geocentric · Heliocentric · Rotation · Axis · Celestial