

Nova's Stellar Space Flashcards

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

Read the front of the card to test your knowledge of space. Flip the card mentally (or use the answer provided) to check if you are correct. Can you explain these concepts to a partner?

What is the name of the star at the centre of our Solar System?	How long does it take for the Earth to complete one full orbit around the Sun?
The Sun.	Approximately 365 and a quarter days (one year).
What do we call the imaginary line that the Earth spins around?	Does the Earth rotate on its axis from West to East or East to West?
An axis.	West to East.
What causes day and night on Earth?	Which force keeps the planets in orbit around the Sun?
The rotation of the Earth on its axis.	Gravity.
What is a natural satellite that orbits the Earth?	What is the difference between a planet and a star?
The Moon.	A star is a giant ball of burning gas that produces its own light; a planet orbits a star and does not produce its own light.
What shape are the orbits of the planets in our Solar System?	What is a 'heliocentric' model of the solar system?
Elliptical (or oval-shaped).	A model where the Sun is at the centre, with the planets orbiting around it.
Approximately how many planets are in our Solar System?	Why do the Sun and stars appear to move across the sky during the day and night?
Eight.	Because the Earth is rotating on its axis.