

Nova's Guide to the Solar System

Blast off into the cosmos with Nova the owl and explore the wonders of our celestial neighbourhood!

- **The Sun is a star at the centre of our solar system, and all eight planets, including Earth, travel around it in a path called an orbit.**
- **The Earth is spherical in shape and takes approximately 365 days to complete one full orbit around the Sun, which creates our calendar year.**
- **Gravity is the invisible force that pulls objects towards the centre of a planet, keeping our feet on the ground and the Moon in orbit around the Earth.**
- **The Moon is a celestial body that orbits the Earth; it does not produce its own light but reflects light from the Sun.**
- **The planets in our solar system are divided into two groups: the rocky inner planets like Mars and Earth, and the gas giants like Jupiter and Saturn.**

Did you know? Did you know? Even though we cannot feel it, the Earth is spinning on its axis at roughly 1,000 miles per hour at the equator! It takes exactly 24 hours for the Earth to complete one full rotation, which is why we have day and night.

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