

Nova's Solar System Explorer Fact-File

Learning objective: To describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the Sun in the solar system.

Join Nova the owl on an astronomical journey! Use your science knowledge to complete this fact-file. Choose one planet in our solar system to research and fill in the boxes below to show what you have discovered.

Word bank: orbit · axis · rotation · gravity · spherical · solar system · planet · sun

1. Planet Profile: Name your chosen planet and describe its position in the solar system relative to the Sun. (2 marks)

2. The Journey: Explain how long it takes your planet to complete one full orbit around the Sun. (2 marks)

3. Spinning Around: Describe the planet's rotation on its axis and how this affects its day and night cycle. (3 marks)

4. The Force of Nature: Explain the role of gravity in keeping your chosen planet in its orbit. (3 marks)

5. Stargazer's Summary: Why is the Sun essential for the survival of planets in our solar system? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Nova the owl writing a postcard from space. Write a short paragraph explaining to Max the monkey why Earth looks different from the other planets you have observed.