

Nova's Galactic Guide: A Report on our Solar System

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

Use this scaffold to structure your scientific report about the solar system. Remember to use formal language and scientific vocabulary to explain how planets orbit the Sun.

Our solar system is a vast and fascinating neighbourhood, anchored by the Sun, which exerts a powerful gravitational force on everything within it.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · orbiting · spherical · gravitational pull · in addition to · clockwise · axis · revolution · consequently

1. Introduction: Define what the solar system is and identify the star at its centre. Start by writing: The solar system consists of... (2 marks)

2. Planetary Motion: Explain how the planets move around the Sun. Use the word 'orbit' in your answer. Start by writing: Each planet travels in a path called an orbit... (3 marks)

3. The Earth's Rotation: Describe what causes day and night on Earth. Start by writing: While the Earth orbits the Sun, it also rotates on its own axis, which means... (3 marks)

4. Comparing Planets: Choose two planets and describe a similarity or difference between them. Start by writing: When comparing planets, it is interesting to note that... (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise why the Sun is essential for life on Earth. Start by writing: In conclusion, the Sun is vital for our planet because... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research why some planets take longer to complete an orbit than others and add a paragraph titled 'Orbital Periods' to your report.