

Subject	Science
Unit/Topic	Space

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Axis	An imaginary line running through a planet, from the North pole to the South pole.
Orbit	The path of a planet round a star, or a satellite round a planet.
Phase	The names given to various stages in the Moon's cycle, depending on how much of it we can see.
Crescent moon	A phase of the moon when we see only a thin curved strip.
Gibbous moon	A phase of the moon when we see it all apart from a thin curved strip.
Full moon	A phase of the moon when we see all of it.
Mercury	Closest planet to the Sun, made of iron. The smallest planet.
Venus	Second planet from the Sun, with a thick atmosphere which makes it hot.
Earth	Third planet from the Sun; the only one with known life.
Mars	Fourth planet from the Sun, made from rock.
Jupiter	Fifth planet from the Sun, made of gas. The biggest planet.
Saturn	Sixth planet from the Sun, made of gas.
Uranus	Seventh planet from the Sun, made of gas.
Neptune	Eighth planet from the Sun, made of gas.
Mass	The amount of atoms that make up a substance. Measured in kg.
Weight	The force an object pushes down with, caused by gravity. Measured in N.

Satellite	Something that orbits a planet.
Dwarf planet	A small object beyond Neptune that orbits our Sun. Example: Pluto.
Comet	A lump of rock and ice that has a very stretched orbit, meaning it only comes close to the Sun once in many years.
Asteroid	A lump of rock in space that doesn't have a fixed orbit.
Meteor	An asteroid that is coming towards the Earth.
Geocentric	A model of the Solar System that has the Earth in the centre.
Heliocentric	A model of the Solar System that has the Sun in the centre.