Third Rock from the Sun
What on Earth is going on?

1. How do we know the sun, Earth and moon are spherical?

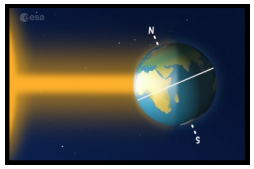
We know the Sun, Earth, and Moon are spherical because of shadows, photos from space, how they move, and how gravity works but people did not always think this was the case. People thought

2. Why does the moon move in the sky?

The moon moves in the sky because it is constantly orbiting around the Earth. As it moves, some of the light is blocked from the Sun by the Earth. This means we see different parts of the Moon as it makes its orbit around Earth. The Moon appears to change shape as we see more or less of it. These shapes are called the phases

3. How do we get day and night?

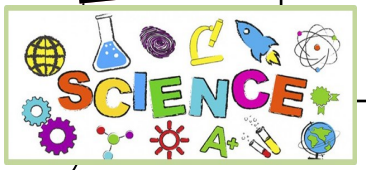
We get day and night because the Earth rotates on its axis. One side of the Earth faces the Sun and experiences daytime, while the other side, in shadow, experiences night time.



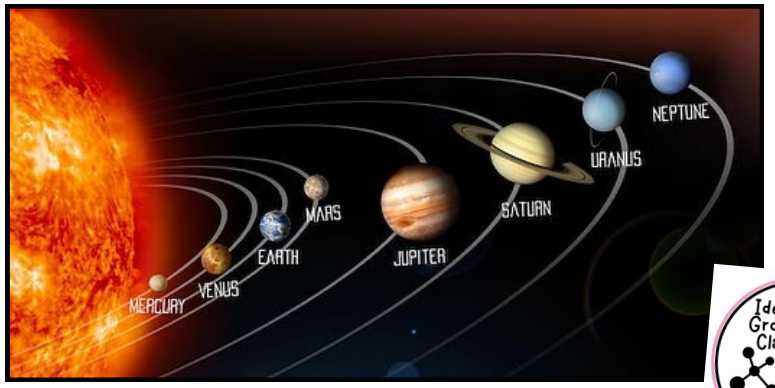
As Earth orbits the Sun, it rotates on its axis. Each rotation of Earth on its axis takes 24 hours. This period of time is called a day.

As Earth rotates on its axis, the side of Earth facing towards the Sun is lit by the Sun. People living on this side of the Earth experience day.

The opposite side of Earth at this point is facing away from the Sun and people living on this side experience night.



4. What planets are in the solar system?



Key Vocabulary

Planets	large celestial bodies that orbit a star, such as the Sun.
Sun	star at the centre of our Solar System.
Moon	Earth's only natural satellite.
Solar System	a collection of celestial bodies bound by gravity
Sphere	a perfectly round three-dimensional shape
Rotate	turn or spin around a central point or axis
Orbit	path that an object takes as it moves around another object in space due to the force of gravity.