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| **Key vocabulary** |
| **Earth** | The planet we live on. It is the third planet from the Sun. |
| **Sun** | The Sun is the star at the centre of our solar system. **It is not safe to look directly at the Sun, even when wearing dark glasses.** |
| **Moon** | The moon is the only natural satellite of the Earth. |
| **planets** | Large round objects, made of rock or gas, that move around the sun. |
| **solar system** | The sun and all the planets that orbit around it. |
| **star** | A huge ball of glowing gas in space. |
| **rotate** | When an object rotates it turns (spins) on its axis. |
| **orbit** | The curved path that an object follows going around a star or a planet. |



**The Sun is a star at the centre of our solar system.**

There are 8 planets in our solar system**: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.**

These all **orbit** (travel) around the sun.

**Earth and space – Year 5**

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| **Significant scientists** |
| **Nicolaus Copernicus***(1473-1543)* | Nicolaus was a Polish astronomer and mathematician who formulated the heliocentric model of the solar system that placed the Sun rather than the Earth at the centre of the universe. |
| **Maggie Aderin-Pocock***(born 1968)* | Maggie is a British space scientist and science educator. She is working on the observation instruments for the Aeolus satellite, which will measure wind speeds to help the investigation of climate change. |

**The Sun, Earth and Moon are approximately spherical bodies.**

**The moon orbits the Earth**

It takes about 28 days to complete its orbit.



**The Earth orbits the Sun.**

It takes 365¼ days to complete its orbit around the Sun. This is a year.



**The Earth rotates (spins) on its axis once every 24 hours.**



**It is day for the half of the Earth facing the Sun.**

**It is night for the half of the Earth facing away from the Sun.**