







Earth and Space

Key Vocabulary

Asteroid - A small rocky body orbiting the sun

Axis - An imaginary line about which a body rotates

Celestial – Positioned in or relating to the sky, or outer space as observed in the astronomy

Day - A twenty-four hour period, from one midnight to the next, corresponding to a rotation of the earth on its axis

Dwarf planet - A celestial body resembling a small planet but lacking certain technical criteria to be classed as a planet e.g. Pluto

Geocentric – Where people believed the earth was at the centre of the solar system

Heliocentric – Representing the sun as the centre of the solar system, the modern view of the solar system

Moon - A natural satellite of any planet

Night – The period from sunset to sunrise in each twenty-four hours

Orbit - The regularly repeated oval course of a celestial object around a star or planet

Planet - A celestial body moving in orbit round a star

Rotation - The action of rotating about an axis or centre

Solar system – The collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit round the sun

Star - A fixed luminous point in the night sky which is a large, remote body like the sun

Sun - The star round which planets orbit