

EARTH AND SPACE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

KEY VOCABULARY AND SPELLINGS

Planet – an object that orbits a star and does not emit its own light

Star – a burning mass of gas that makes heat and light energy (e.g. the sun)

Gravity – the force that attracts an object towards a larger object

Solar system – a star with objects (such as planets) orbiting it

Orbit – a curved path of a planet or satellite around an object

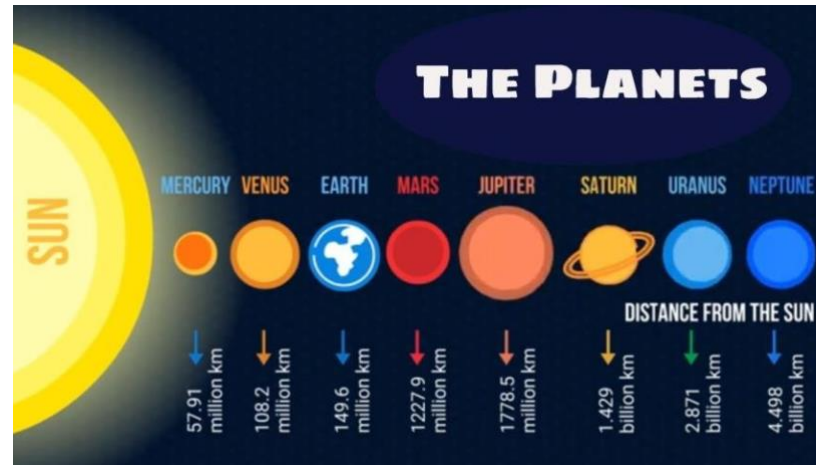
Satellite – an object either natural (moon) or man-made that orbits around a planet

NASA – the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a US agency responsible for the exploration and study of space

Universe – all of space and everything in it

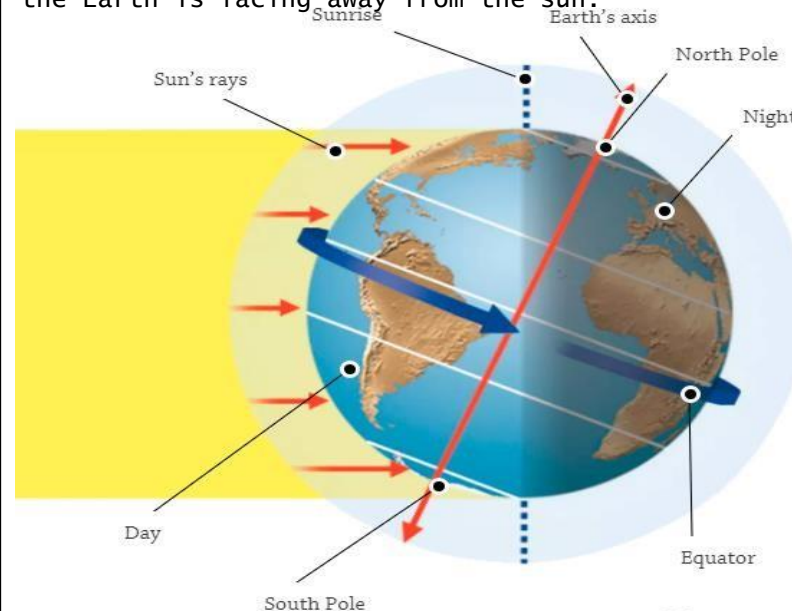
Astronomy – the branch of science that deals with space and the physical universe as a whole

Asteroid – a small rocky body orbiting the sun



DAY and NIGHT

Earth rotates (spins) on its axis, it does a full spin once every 24 hours, which is our day and night. Daytime occurs when the side of the Earth is facing the sun and night occurs when the side of the Earth is facing away from the sun.



THE EARTH and THE MOON

The moon orbits Earth in an oval-shaped path whilst it spins on its axis. At different times in the month the moon appears to be different shapes, this is because the sun lights up different parts of the moon as the moon moves around the Earth.



ASTRONAUTS and SPACE MISSIONS

The first man-made satellite to orbit Earth was called Sputnik and was launched by the Soviet Union in 1957.

Yuri Gagarin was the first human in space in 1961.

Neil Armstrong was the first person on the moon in 1969.

The International Space Station was launched in 1998 and is a joint project between 5 space agencies (USA, Russia, Japan, Europe and Canada). It is a research laboratory which is in Earth's orbit.

