
Day and Night

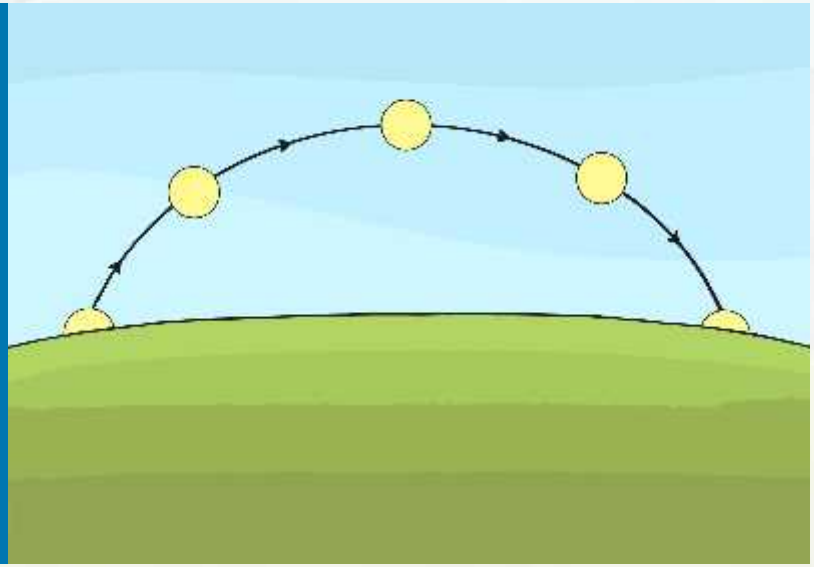
Day and Night

Helios was an ancient Greek god. The ancient Greeks believed that Helios pulled the sun across the sky each day in a chariot.

Does the Sun Move?

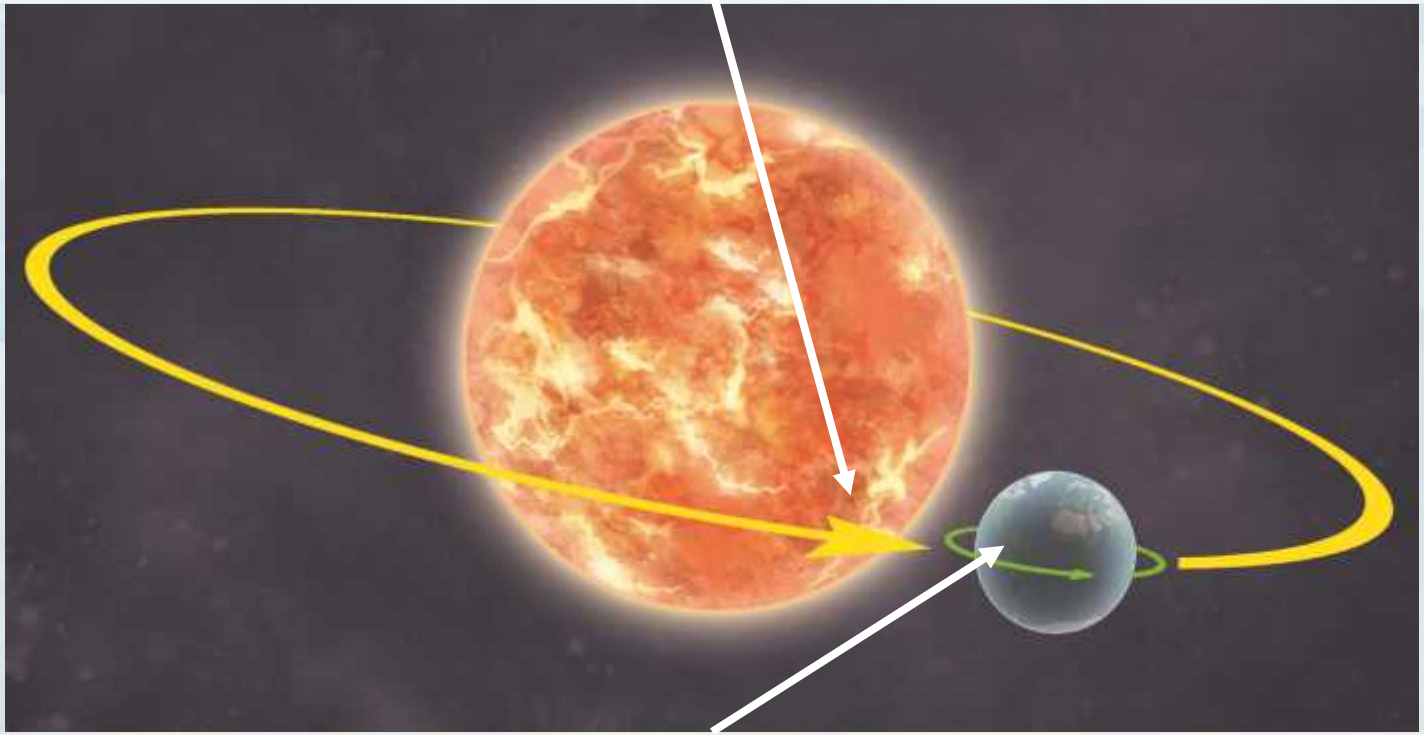
Have you noticed how shadows change throughout the day?
Why do you think this is? Talk about it with a partner.

The Sun stays in the same place in relation to the Earth. It appears to move because of the movements of Earth as it orbits the Sun.



How Does Earth Move?

Earth moves in two ways.
It revolves (orbits) the Sun. One revolution takes just over 365 days.

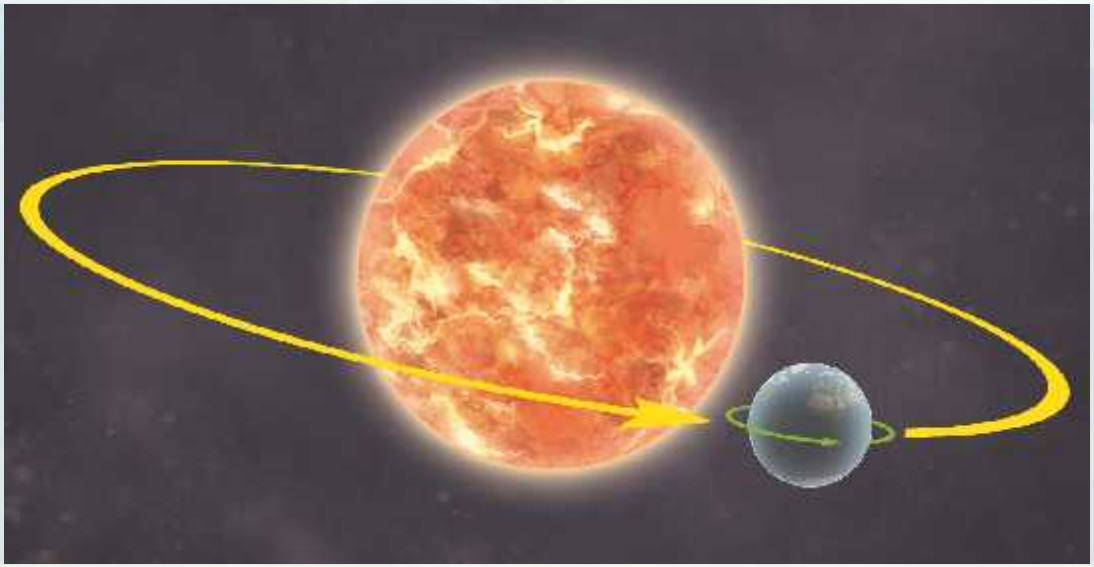


It rotates (spins) round once every 24 hours.

How Does Earth Move?

The revolution of Earth (once every 365 days) causes the seasons.

The rotation of Earth (once every 24 hours) causes night and day.



Day and Night

Earth rotates on its axis. This is an imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole.

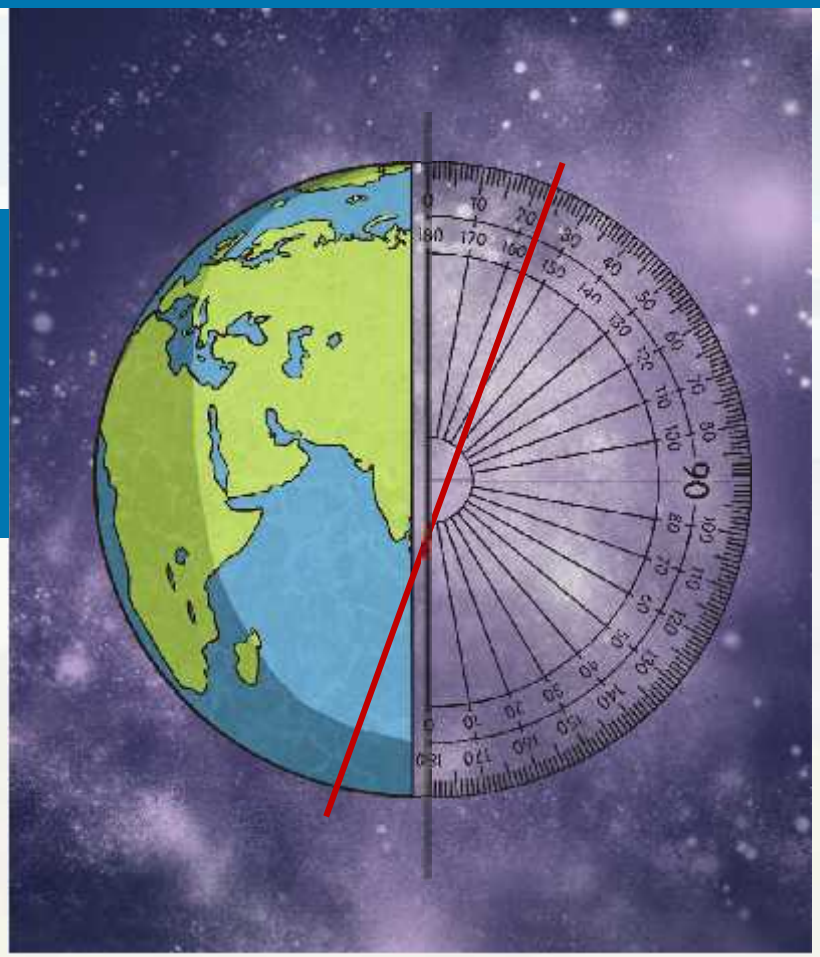
Imagine you are spinning a basketball on your finger. Your finger is where the axis is and the basketball is Earth spinning.

1 spin = 1 rotation = 24 hours = 1 day

Day and Night

Have you ever noticed that a globe is slightly tilted?

This is because Earth itself is slightly tilted on its axis. Currently, this tilt is 23.5°. However, this can change over thousands of years.



Day and Night

Actually, Earth is an a oblate spheroid which is a spherical shape with a bulge around the middle and a slightly flatter bit at the top and bottom.

Time Zones

The rotation of Earth creates different time zones across the world. When it is 9 a.m. in the UK, it is 6 p.m. in Sydney, Australia and 1 a.m. in Los Angeles, United States.