



# Sunrise and Sunset

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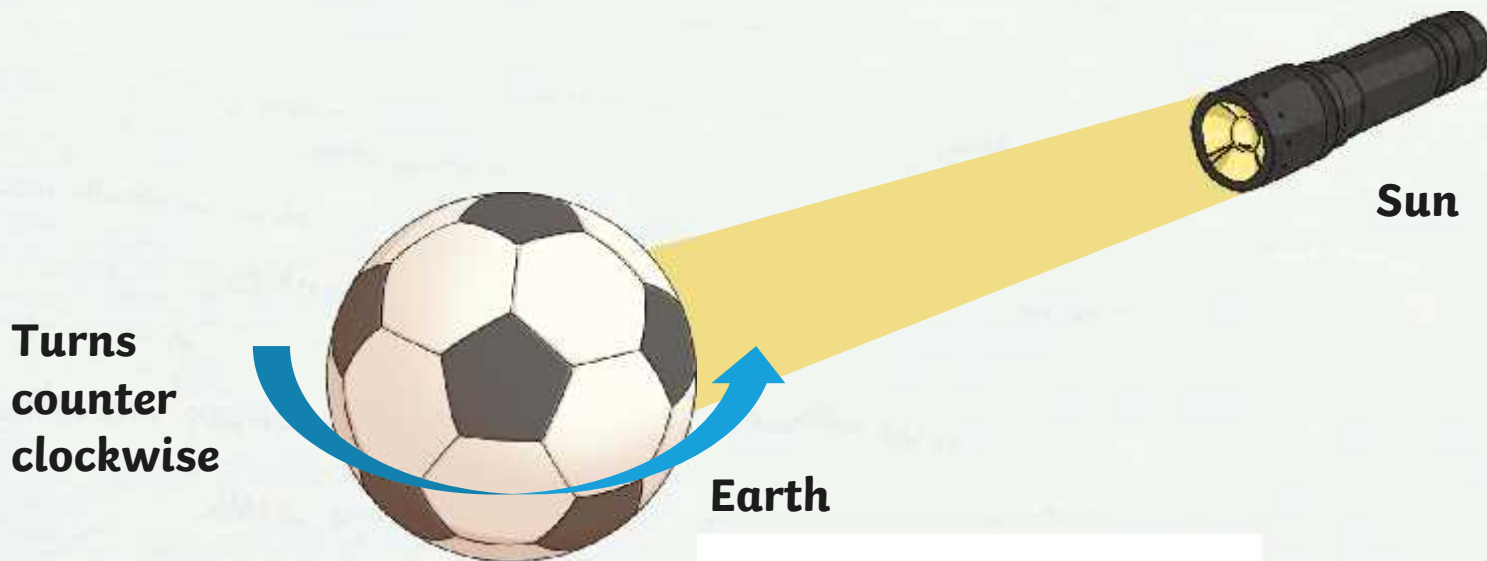


Why does the sun **rise** in the morning  
and **set** at night time?

Shine a torch on the side of a ball and rotate the ball **counter clockwise**.  
Watch what happens to the light and dark areas as the ball turns.

Imagine this ball is the **Earth**.

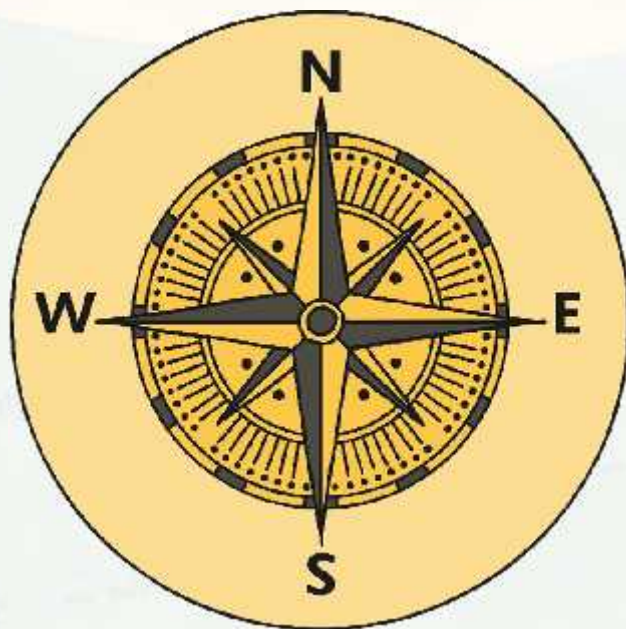
This is what happens on the Earth as it rotates towards the **east**.

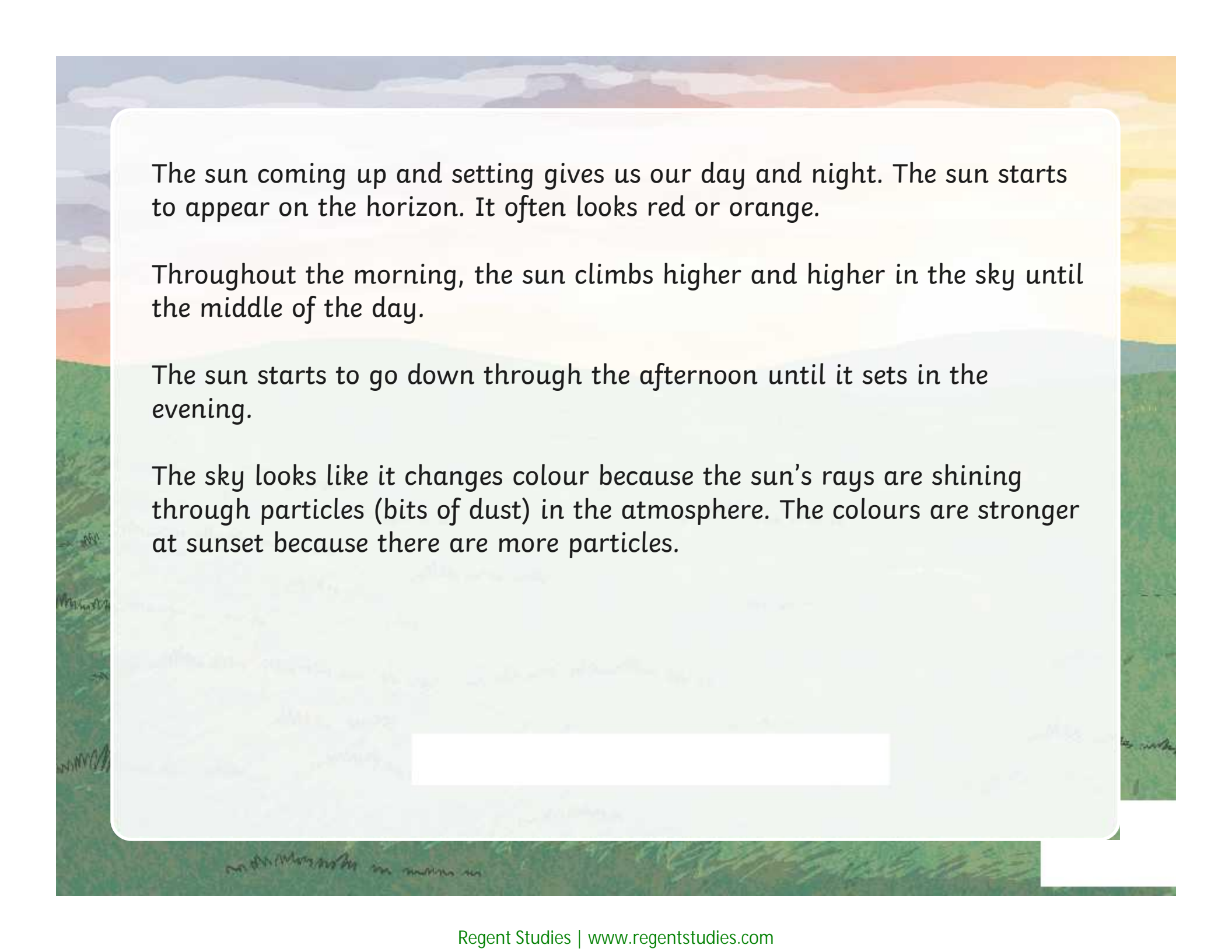




As Earth rotates (turns around) it moves in and out of the Sun's light.

The sun **rises in the east** and **sets in the west**.





The sun coming up and setting gives us our day and night. The sun starts to appear on the horizon. It often looks red or orange.

Throughout the morning, the sun climbs higher and higher in the sky until the middle of the day.

The sun starts to go down through the afternoon until it sets in the evening.

The sky looks like it changes colour because the sun's rays are shining through particles (bits of dust) in the atmosphere. The colours are stronger at sunset because there are more particles.

In the **winter**, the **sun rises later** and sets earlier and our **days are short**.



In the **summer**, the sun **rises earlier** and sets later and our **days are longer**.





# Why Do We Need to Know This?

It helps us plan what we need to do in each day.

People who work outdoors need to know how much daylight they will have in each day, such as farmers and gardeners.

We have to take more care walking to school or home in the dark.

We have to choose after school clubs carefully (you can't play football in the dark!).

Around the world the sun rises and sets at different times.

New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and New Caledonia have their sunrises a few hours **before** Australia.

Countries to the west of Australia, like America and UK, have their sunrise many hours **after** Australia.

A world map with Australia highlighted in yellow. Two orange text boxes are overlaid on the map. One box is positioned over the UK and Europe, and the other is positioned over Australia. The map shows the relative positions of continents and oceans.

UK sunrise  
AEST\*: 4:00pm in the  
afternoon

Australia sunrise  
AEST\*: 7:00am in the  
morning

\*Australian  
Eastern  
Standard  
Time

# Task

Make a picture of a sunrise or sunset.

This could be on the computer or with paper and paint.

Use the computer to look at different images first.



# Plenary

What **3 facts** do you know about the sun rising and setting?



