

## Remember the Planets

Here is a quick way of remembering the names and order of the planets.

**My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Naming**  
 e r c u r y      e n u s      a r t h      a r s      u p i t e r      a t u r n      r a n u s      e p t u n e

### Did you Know?

Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are rocky planets. They are mostly made up of metal and rock. They are called the terrestrial planets and are found in the inner solar system.

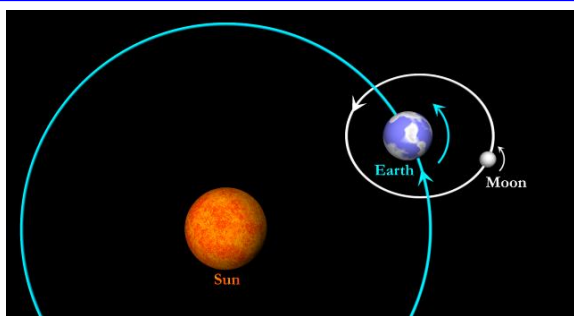
Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are mostly made up of gases (helium and hydrogen) although they do have cores made of rock and metal. These planets are known as gas giants and are found in the outer solar system.

Pluto used to be considered a planet but was reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006.



### Did you Know?

The Moon orbits Earth in an oval shaped path while spinning on its own axis. At various times in a month, the Moon appears to be different shapes in the sky. This is because as the Moon rotates round Earth, the Sun lights up different parts of it.



### Did you Know?

The Earth takes 24 hours (1 day) to rotate once on its axis.  
 The Earth takes 365¼ days (1 year) to orbit the Sun.  
 The Moon takes 28 days to orbit the Earth.

### Key Vocabulary to learn

**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

# Sun, Earth and Moon

## Year 5

