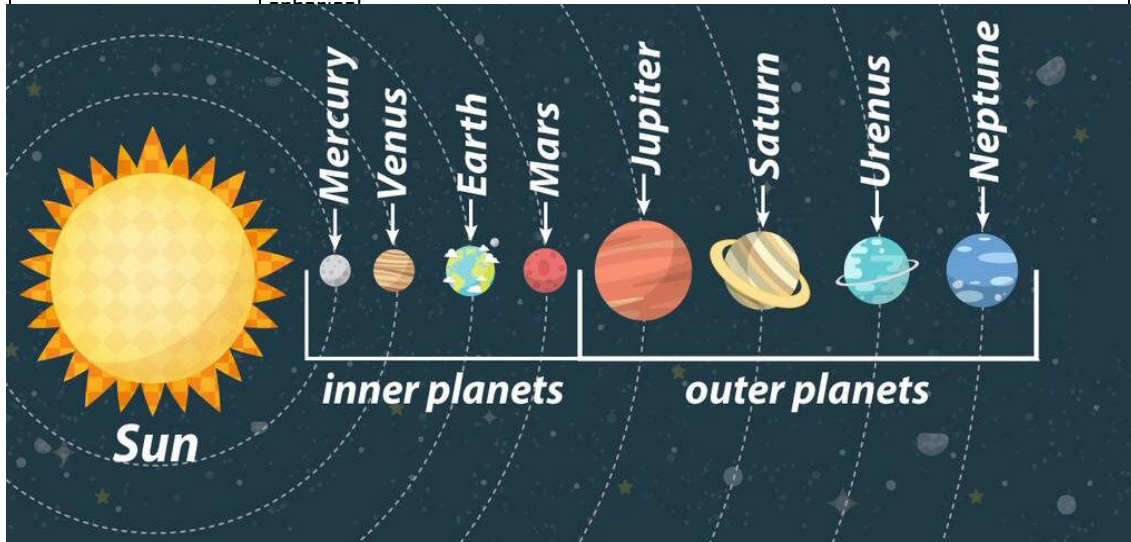


# Why is the Solar System so important to Earth?

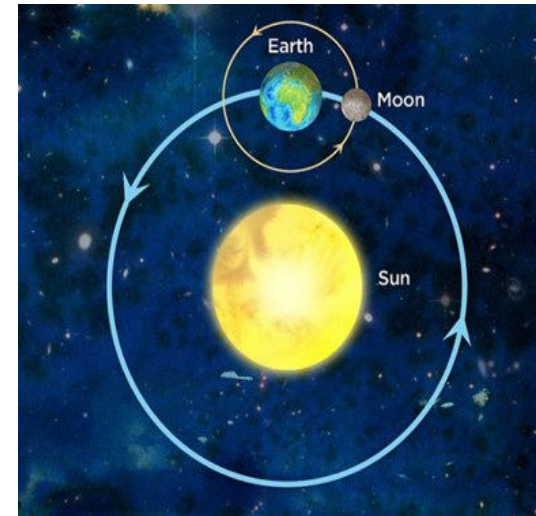
Solar System	A collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit around the sun, together with smaller bodies in the form of asteroids, meteoroids, and comets.
Galaxy	A system of millions or billions of stars, together with gas and dust, held together by gravitational attraction.
Axis	An invisible line drawn through the Earth on which it spins
Eclipse	A solar eclipse it when the moon passes between the sun and the Earth and blocks the sunlight
Waxing	Waxing means the moon looks like it is getting larger.
Waning	Waning means the moon looks like it is getting smaller.
Spherical	Round in shape - all planets and moons are approximately spherical



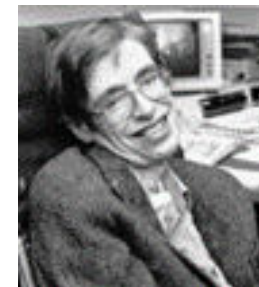
Earth rotates (spins) on its axis. It does a full rotation once in every 24 hours.

At the same time that the Earth is rotating, it is also orbiting (revolving) around the Sun. The sun does not move.

It takes a little more than 365 days to orbit the Sun. Daytime occurs when the side of the Earth is facing towards the Sun. Night occurs when the side of the Earth is facing away from the sun.



The Moon has no light of its own. Moonlight is sunlight reflecting off the Moon's surface. As the Moon orbits the Earth the sun lights up whatever side of the Moon is facing it. This is why it appears to change shape. It takes 28 days for the moon to orbit Earth.



Stephen Hawking was a British scientist known for his work about space and black holes.

Tim Peake was the first British astronaut to visit the International Space Station.

