

Y5 Solar System

KS2 Y5 Science · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

How does the Earth move relative to the Sun?

Step 1 · What is at the centre of the solar system?

The Sun — a star

Step 2 · What does the Earth do?

It orbits (travels round) the Sun in a nearly circular path

Step 3 · How long does one orbit take?

About $365\frac{1}{4}$ days — one year

Answer: The Earth orbits the Sun once every $365\frac{1}{4}$ days. That is what a year is.

Check: The extra $\frac{1}{4}$ day each year adds up to one extra day every 4 years — a leap year, 29 February.

2. Now try one with the steps

Remember the order of the planets.

Step 1 · Use a sentence

Step 2 · Take the first letters

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is at the centre of our solar system?

2. How many planets are in our solar system?

3. What is the word for the path a planet takes around the Sun?

4. Which planet is closest to the Sun?

5. Which planet is furthest from the Sun?

6. Which number planet from the Sun is Earth?

7. How many days does it take Earth to orbit the Sun once? (whole number)

8. Which is the largest planet?

9. Do planets closer to the Sun take more or less time to orbit it?

10. Mars takes 687 days to orbit the Sun. How many days longer is that than Earth's 365?

11. Why do we have a leap year every 4 years?

12. What is the difference between the geocentric and heliocentric models?

13. Name the scientist who, in 1543, said the Sun was at the centre.

14. Is the Sun a planet? Explain.

4. Before you hand it in

The Sun goes round the Earth.

The Earth (and every planet) orbits the Sun.

Pluto is the ninth planet.

There are 8 planets; Pluto is a dwarf planet.

The Sun is a planet or is on fire.

Stars make light; planets and moons reflect it.

All the planets take a year to go round the Sun.

The further from the Sun, the longer the orbit takes.