

Earth & Space

Diagrams are not to scale

The universe and our solar system



The **universe** is made of many **galaxies**.

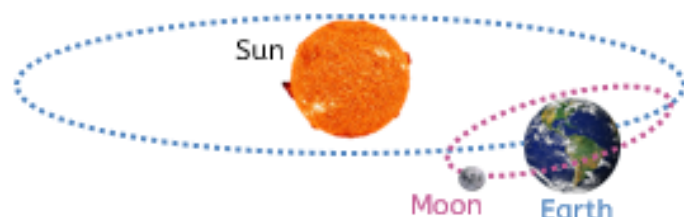


The **galaxy** we live in is called the Milky Way. It contains our **solar system**.



Our **solar system** contains a **star** (the Sun) and eight **planets** (including Earth).

Orbits



The Sun is at the centre of our solar system. This is known as the **heliocentric model**.
The Earth orbits the Sun. It takes $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days to do this.
The Moon orbits the Earth. It takes 28 days to do this.

Rotations

Light from the Sun travels in straight lines, so only one half of the Earth can be in daylight at one time.
The Earth rotates on its axis (spins) once every 24 hours. This means we have 12-hour days and 12-hour nights.



Time Zones

The Earth has 24 different time zones, split by imaginary lines called meridians. Each zone is a number of hours ahead or behind time in London.



"Spiral galaxy" (CC BY-SA 4.0) by ESA/Hubble