

Section 1 : Planets in the Solar System

This is a mnemonic to help learn the planets and their order.

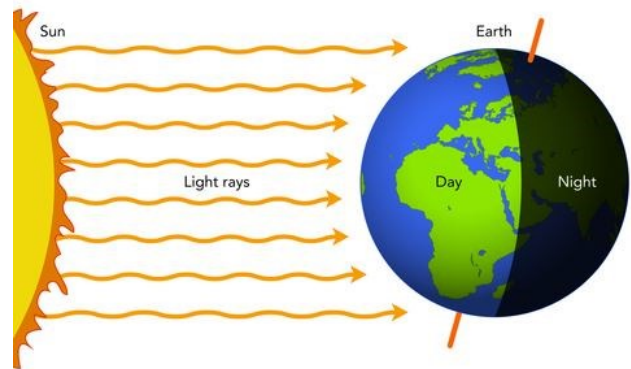


There are **8 planets in the solar system** (as Pluto was re-classified as a Dwarf Planet in 2006). All planets are approximately sphere-shaped (**spherical**) and they **orbit (move around) the Sun**. The sun is a **star** and it takes the Earth, one year to orbit the sun.

Day and night

The Earth rotates (**spins**) on its **axis**.
One rotation takes **24 hours (1 day)**.

When the side of the Earth that is facing the Sun is experiencing day time, the side of the Earth facing away from the Sun is experiencing night time.



Day and night is caused by the **rotation** of the Earth on its **axis**. This is why the sun appears to move across the sky during the day. However, the Earth is moving, not the Sun.

Section 2: Continents and Oceans

Continents

There are **7 continents** in the world.

Asia, **N**orth America, **A**frica, **E**urope, **A**ustralasia, **S**outh America and **A**ntarctica

A mnemonic for remembering the continents could be: **A** **N**aughty **A**nteater **E**ats **A**ngry **S**warming **A**nts.

Asia is the largest continent and Australasia is the smallest.

Europe

Great Britain and Sweden are countries in Europe which is made up of 44 countries.

Europe is divided into Northern, Central, Southern and Western Europe.

Oceans

There are **5 oceans**.

Pacific, **A**tlantic, **S**outhern, **I**ndian and **A**rctic

A mnemonic for the oceans could be:

People **A**lways **S**wim **I**n **A**ugust.



Section 3: Earth Vocabulary

The Earth can be divided in many ways with imaginary lines. Here are some important divisions of the world.

Equator

An imaginary line that divides the Earth in half. It is an equal distance between the North and South Poles. The weather on the Equator is hot all year round.

Northern Hemisphere

This is the part of the Earth north of the Equator. 80% of the world's population lives there. 90% of land is in the Northern Hemisphere.

Southern Hemisphere

This is the part of the Earth south of the Equator. 90% of the planet's water is in the Southern Hemisphere.

North Pole

The North Pole is the northernmost point on Earth and there is no land there, only ice. It has an imaginary line around it called the **Arctic Circle**.

South Pole

The South Pole is the southernmost place on Earth. It is much colder than the North Pole and its imaginary line is called the **Antarctic Circle**.



Section 4: Physical and Human Geography

Physical features are those that occur naturally. Human features are those that are man-made.

Both are constantly changing and human features can have an impact on physical features, just as physical features (such as weather) can have an effect on human features.

Settlements

Places where people live and sometimes work, e.g. hamlet, village, town, city



Some settlements have a special use or function e.g. port, tourist resort

Land use

The way in which land is used by people, e.g.

- agriculture
- forestry
- housing
- conservation
- reservoirs



Population

The number of inhabitants of a particular place.



Section 5: Gravity

Gravity is an invisible force that pulls everything towards the centre of Earth. It feels like it is pulling 'down' but that's because wherever you are on Earth, it is pulling you towards the centre of the Earth.



Every object has gravity. The bigger the object, the bigger the gravity. The sun is huge so its gravity keeps the planets in our solar system in orbit around it. Earth's gravity keeps the Moon in orbit around Earth.

We know that Earth's gravity is stronger than the Moon's gravity because Earth is bigger than the Moon.

The Moon's gravity is one sixth of Earth's gravity, so an object with the same mass will weigh differently on Earth than it does on the Moon.

