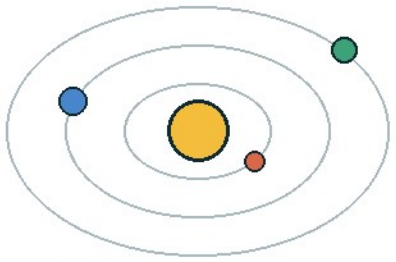
Astronomy and the Solar System

Our place in space

WHAT IS IT?

Astronomy studies the Sun, planets, stars and galaxies. Gravity holds the planets in orbit around the Sun, and telescopes and spacecraft let us measure how far, how big and how old things in space are.



planets orbit the Sun

THE BIG IDEAS

1. Gravity keeps the planets in orbit around the Sun.
2. Earth's tilt, as it orbits the Sun, gives us the seasons.
3. Space distances are so big that we use light-years.
4. Stars are born, shine for a long time and eventually change.

YOU SEE IT WHEN ...

- Moon phases and eclipses
- Stars on a clear night
- Satellites and space missions

WORDS YOU WILL MEET

Orbit
the path of one body around another

Planet
a large body that orbits a star

Star
a huge ball of hot gas that shines

Galaxy
a vast group of stars held by gravity

Light-year
the distance light travels in a year

Telescope
an instrument that makes faraway things clearer

GOOD TO KNOW FIRST

Basic arithmetic, ratios and scientific notation.

IN YOUR COURSE YOU WILL ...

- Learn the planets and their motions
- Study how stars change over time
- Explain moon phases and eclipses
- Use scale models of distance and size

Start tip: Make a scale model with everyday objects to feel how far apart things are.

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