

UNIT 2 >>> Science – The solar system and Earth

1 Vocabulary

Match the definitions (a–e) with the words (1–5).

Then go to <http://www.macmillandictionary.com> and check your answers.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 universe | a to go around a large object in space |
| 2 planet | b an object that goes around a planet |
| 3 solar system | c space and everything that is in it |
| 4 orbit (v) | d a large, round object that moves around a star |
| 5 moon | e a star and the planets that go around it |

2 Pre-reading

Work in pairs. How much do you know about our solar system? Do the quiz to find out. Search the internet or use websites like these to help you:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/space/solarsystem/sun_and_planets

<http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov>

SOLAR SYSTEM QUIZ

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 There are planets in our solar system.
(a) eight (b) nine (c) ten | 3 The planet with the longest day is
(a) Venus (b) Mercury (c) Earth |
| 2 The sun is
(a) a planet (b) a moon (c) a star | 4 The planet with the shortest day is
(a) Earth (b) Jupiter (c) Neptune |

3 Reading

Read the text. Then use the information in the text and information from the internet to complete the fact file. Use websites like this to help you:

<http://www.windows2universe.org/kids>

Look at the sky at night. How many stars are there? It's not possible to count them! The universe is very big. There are many planets and stars and our solar system is just a very small part of it.

The sun is a bright, hot star at the centre of our solar system. It doesn't move, but all the planets orbit it. It takes 365 days – one year – for the Earth to orbit the sun. We have seasons because the North Pole is always in the same place as the Earth goes around the sun. Some places get more or less light at different times of the year so days are shorter in the winter and longer in the summer.

We have day and night time because the Earth turns around in a circle. It takes 24 hours (a day) to do this once. At night, it's dark because our side of the Earth faces away from the sun. During the day, it's light because our side of the Earth faces the sun.

PLANET FACT FILE: EARTH

Size of planet	
Distance from the Sun	
Time to orbit the Sun	
Hours in a day	
Number of moons	
Time for the moon(s) to orbit the planet	

GO BEYOND

4 Planet fact file

Find out about another planet in our solar system. Search the internet to get information about the planet and prepare a fact file like *Planet fact file: Earth* above to present to the class. Use websites like these to help you:

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents>

<http://www.planetsforkids.org> <http://www.space.com>