

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

Aims: To learn about our solar system and Earth.

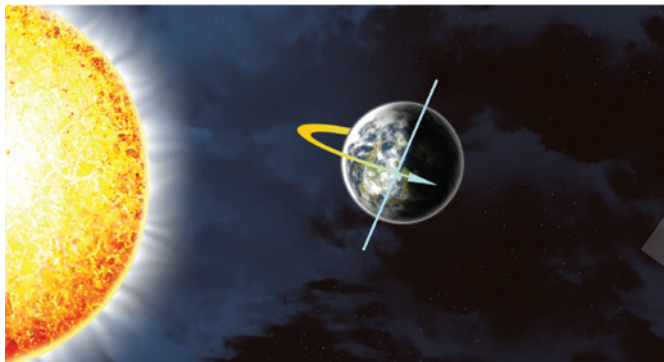
Activities: Matching words with definitions. Answering questions in a quiz about our solar system. Completing a fact file with information about Earth. Researching and making a fact file about a planet in our solar system.

Language: The present simple and comparatives (Grammar). Vocabulary relating to space and planets.

Procedure: This worksheet can be given as homework or done in class. If given as homework, Exercise 4 can be used as a follow-up activity.

Extra materials

Take two spherical objects into class (eg balls, oranges) to demonstrate the movement of the Earth around the sun. Pin a toothpick (or similar) into the top and bottom of the object representing the Earth to show the North and South Poles and demonstrate how the Earth rotates at an angle on its axis (see illustration).



1

Remind students that they learned about night and day in Unit 2 of the Student's Book. Remind them of the photo on pages 20–21 where they saw a view of Earth from above. Elicit the name of our planet (Earth). Elicit what they saw in the photo on pages 20–21 (some countries were light and other countries were dark). Tell students that they are going to learn about our solar system and what causes the seasons and day and night on Earth.

Read the words and definitions to students and check vocabulary in the definitions. Ask students to match the definitions to the words. Get them to check their answers online with the Macmillan Dictionary before you check answers in open class.

Answers

1 c 2 d 3 e 4 a 5 b

2

Explain that this is a quiz about our solar system. Remind students of the definition of *solar system* from Exercise 1 (a star and the planets that go around it). Ask students to work in pairs and choose the correct answers to the quiz questions from the three options given. Encourage them to use the internet to find out the answers.

Answers

1 a 2 c 3 a 4 b

3

Tell students that, of all the planets in our solar system, our planet, Earth, is very special because it is the only one of the planets that can support life. Tell students that one of the reasons that there is life on Earth is that the temperature and amount of light are just right. Explain that other planets in our solar system are very hot and dry (eg *Venus*); others are too cold and dark (eg *Uranus*). Tell students they are going to find out what causes day and night and the seasons on Earth. Students read the text and use the information to complete some of the fact file. They then use the internet to research information to complete the remaining parts of the fact file. Before students read the text, go through the fact file with them and check vocabulary. Explain *circumference* (the distance measured around the edge of a circle) and demonstrate with a spherical object if necessary.

Answers

Size of planet	40,075km
Distance from the Sun	149,600,000km
Time to orbit the Sun	365 days (one year)
Hours in a day	24
Number of moons	1
Time for the moon(s) to orbit the planet	28 days

4

This can be done in class or as homework. If it's done as homework, students complete the fact file at home. Students can then present their fact file to the class in the next lesson.