

Science and Culture

- **Encyclopedia Britannica**- This is an amazing resource for science and culture for inspiration on research projects. Leelanau Montessori has a subscription for you to enjoy! Login with the following:

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Relationship of the Earth and Sun

This week the in-person students are studying the relationship of Earth and the sun.

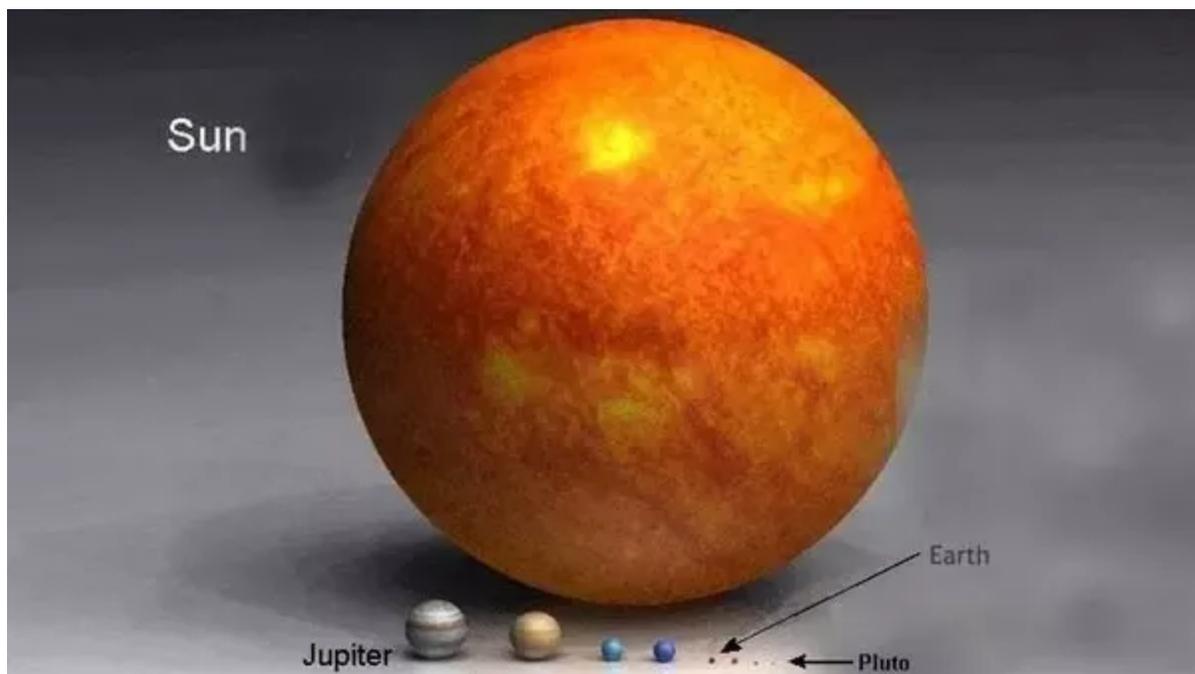
- 1) The relative size of the sun to the Earth

Even though the sun appears to be small when we see it from the sky, it is actually much, much bigger than the Earth. It appears smaller than the Earth because it is very, very far away. The sun is very hot and bright, and the Earth receives just a small portion of its radiation. This light and heat is what allows life on Earth. The sun heats Earth to a perfect temperature to keep everything alive.

How big is the sun, compared to the Earth?

It is one million times bigger than Earth.

One million = 1,000,000

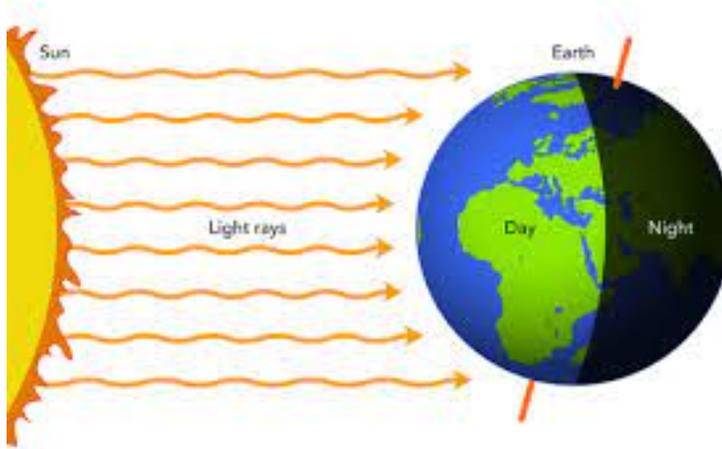


How far away is Earth from the sun? It is 93 million miles away (93,000,000 miles).

How long would it take a car, driving 100 miles per hour, to reach the sun (driving 24 hours a day)?

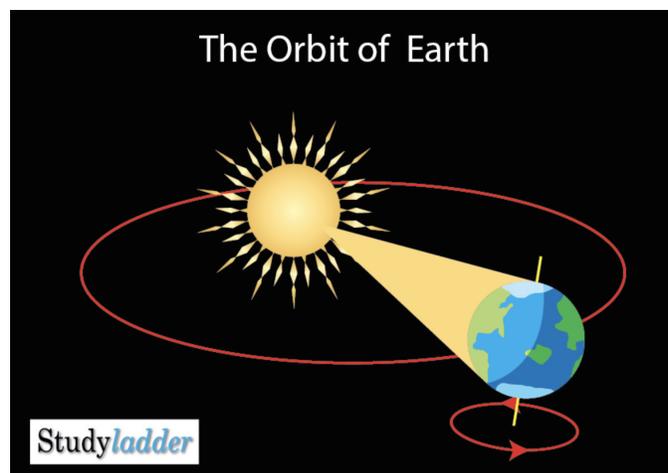
It is fun to think through what operations need to be done to find this answer. The answer can be found in the Movement, Music, and Enrichment section.

2) The Earth moves in two ways: revolution and rotation.



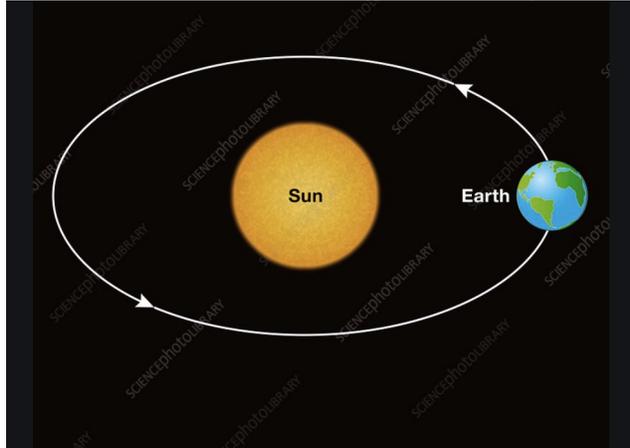
Rotation:

Although it seems the Earth is still and it is the sun moving across the sky, it is in fact Earth that is moving and the sun is still. This movement is the Earth rotating on its axis. The Earth spins around on its axis one time every 24 hours, or one full day. When it is daylight, Earth is facing toward the sun. When it is nighttime, Earth is facing away from the sun.



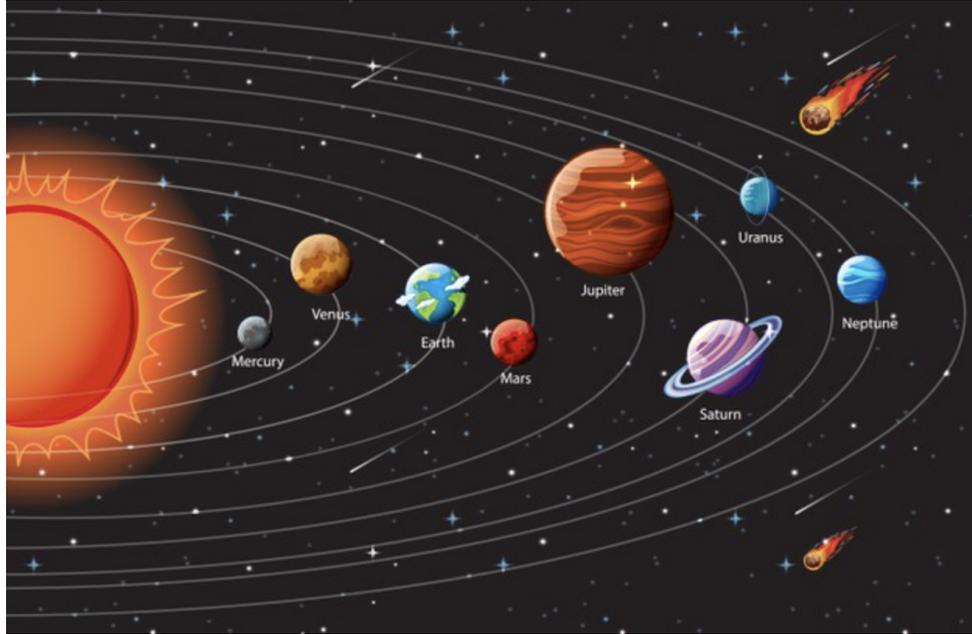
Revolving:

Not only is Earth spinning on an axis, it is revolving around the sun on an orbit. The revolution of Earth around the sun takes approximately 365 days, which is one year. This is why people say that they've made one more trip around the sun on their birthday!



Earth is not the only planet that orbits the sun. There are seven other planets in our solar system. Each of these planets have their own orbit path. This is the circle path that each planet travels around the sun.

Can you memorize all of the planets in their order from closest planet to the sun, to the furthest?



Independent Study Work

Check out books from the library on any of these topics which you can then study (or let us know and we can put books in the vault):

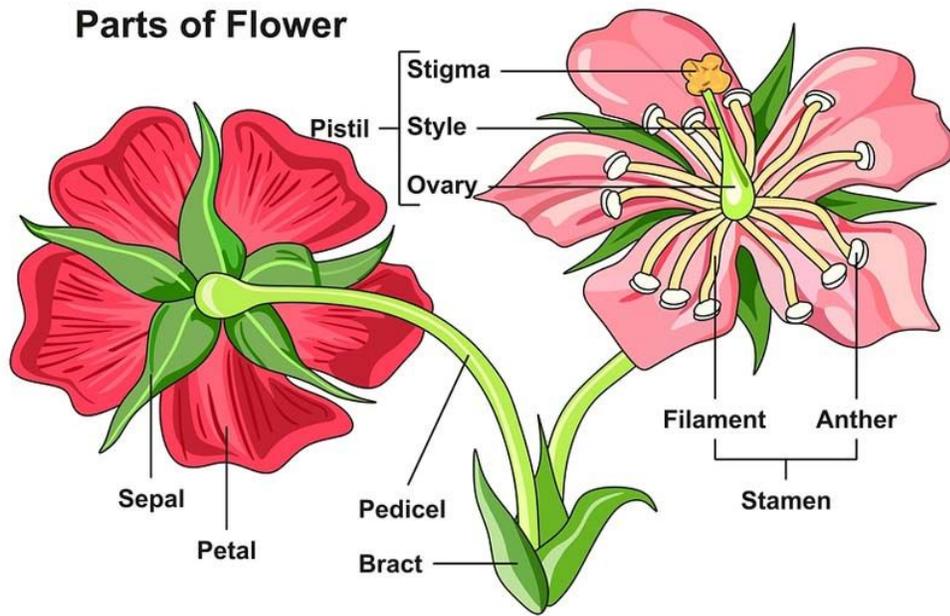
- Sun
- Earth
- Solar system
- Planets
- Seasons
- Day and night

Write down interesting facts you find onto a notecard. Have the notecard looked at by an adult for understanding. Re-write the information from the card onto a final format (book, poster, etc.) using your best handwriting. Create visual elements to support the facts you are reporting. This can be drawings, sculptures, dioramas, timelines, etc.

Share your study in the Google Classroom.

The Flower

We are starting a new unit in class on the flower. We will be exploring the function of the flower and also the parts.



This is a story of the function of the flower:

‘When the flowers are out on the plant it is a very special time, it is a time of festivity, like people at a Christmas Market, calling out to those passing by, ‘Come, come, I have something lovely for you to eat’. Despite all of our technology, flowers are more eloquent, with their perfume and beautiful flowers. Some call out with pink petals, some with yellow, some purple, some white, some blue. The flowers call to the insects for miles and miles around. The call is so strong the insects cannot resist it. The flowers seem to say, ‘Come along here, I have the most delicious sweet drink for you’. This drink is really nectar; while drinking it the insects get a dusting of powder. It is as if the flower is saying, ‘Not only will I give you a sweet drink, but I will also give you a beautiful coat of yellow powder’. This powder is really pollen. Off goes the insect with this dusting of powder to another flower, for another treat. When the insect visits the other flower and its pistil is ripe, it will be sticky and some of the pollen will stick to the pistil. This is how plants make sure that the pollen goes from one flower to another. It goes on and on and on, all the time, when the flowers are out on the plant.’

Start noticing flowers budding and blooming during this springtime. Check out books from the library on the function and parts of the flower. We will continue to do this work for the next LAH document in May.