

Key facts

There are 8 planets in our **solar system**: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.



There are officially five **dwarf planets** in our **solar system**: Pluto, Ceres, Haumea, Makemake and Eris.

Day and night are created when Earth **rotates** on its **axis** so different parts of the planet are facing towards or away from the sun.

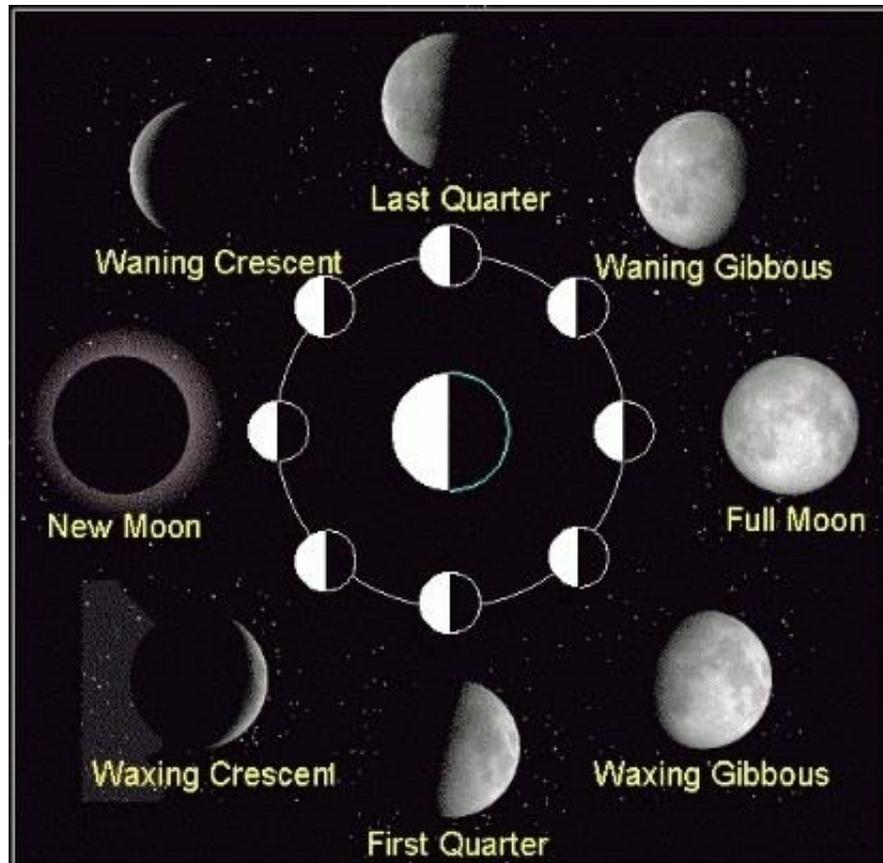
Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins: first astronauts to land on the moon.
Tim Peake and Helen Sharman: British astronauts.
Valentina Tereshkova: First woman in space.

A star is a fixed, luminous point in the sky which is a ball of gas held together by **gravity**.
The sun is the biggest star in the **solar system**.

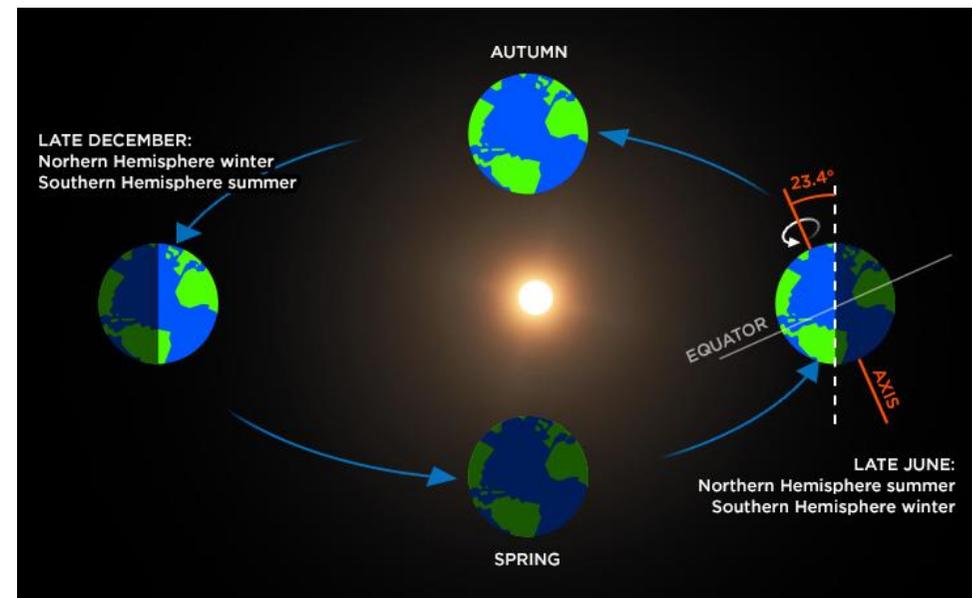
Key vocabulary

axis	An imaginary line about which an object rotates.
dwarf planet	A mass object that is neither a true planet nor a natural satellite.
galaxy	A system of millions or billions of stars together with gas or dust held together by gravity.
gravity	A force that attracts an object towards the centre of the Earth.
Milky Way	The galaxy to which our solar system belongs.
moon	A natural satellite.
orbit	A path an object in space takes around another.
rotate	Move in a circle around an axis or centre.
satellite	An artificial object placed in orbit around a planet.
season	The four divisions of the year: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.
shadow	A shape produced by an object coming between rays of light and a surface.
solar system	A collection of planets and their moons in orbit around the sun.

There are eight phases of the **moon**: New **moon**, waxing crescent, first quarter, waxing gibbous, full **moon**, waning gibbous, third quarter, and waning.



The Earth takes three hundred and sixty-five and a quarter days to orbit the sun. The moon takes twenty-eight days to orbit the Earth. Every four years there is a leap year.



Seasons are created by Earth's **orbit** around the sun and the tilt of the Earth on its **axis**.