Round and Round the Sun

How Earth and the planets move



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Today we will...

WE ARE LEARNING TO

- Name the Sun as centre of our system
- Describe how planets orbit the Sun
- Explain why planet years are different

SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

- ✓ I can say what is in the centre
- ✓ I can use orbit to describe movement
- ✓ I can link distance to year length



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

BIG IDEA

The Sun stays in the middle while all eight planets travel round it.

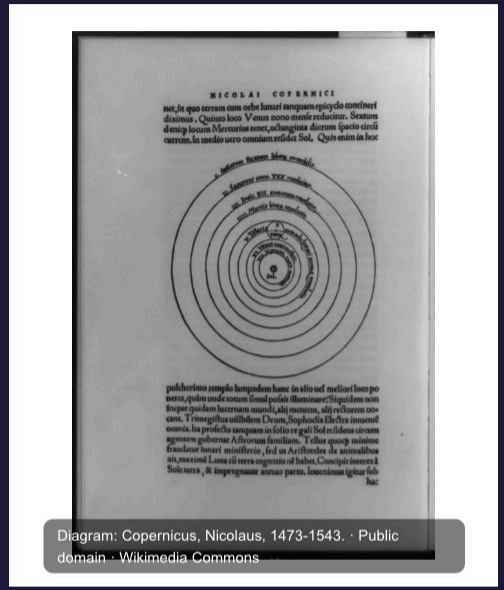


Diagram: Copernicus, Nicolaus, 1473-1543. · Public domain · Wikimedia Commons



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Near or far from the Sun?

Close to the Sun

- Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars
- Take small, fast laps round Sun
- Have short years and quick orbits

Far from the Sun

- Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune
- Take big, slow laps round Sun
- Have long years and huge orbits



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

What could this be?

You see empty round lanes with nothing on them. What are they for?





Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Watch: Circling the Sun



▶ 0:00 – 1:30

- Spot the Sun staying in the middle
- Notice which planets move the fastest



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

How planets move

1. Sun sits in the middle
2. Each planet travels round it
3. All go the same way round
4. Far planets take much longer



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Watch: A race round the Sun



▶ 0:00 – 4:00

- Compare a short Mercury year and long Neptune year
- Remember how long Earth takes to orbit



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Your task

Model the solar system and show how planets orbit the Sun.

1. One person is the Sun in the middle
2. Others are planets walking round slowly
3. Walk anticlockwise, near ones go faster

15 min

Groups of 9



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Words to use

☀️

Sun

Star in the centre of our system.

🪐

Planet

Large round rock or gas world that goes round a star.

🔄

Orbit

Path taken round a star, planet or moon.

🎂

Year

Time for one full orbit round the Sun.



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Think, pair, share

If you lived on Neptune, why would you wait 165 Earth years for a birthday?

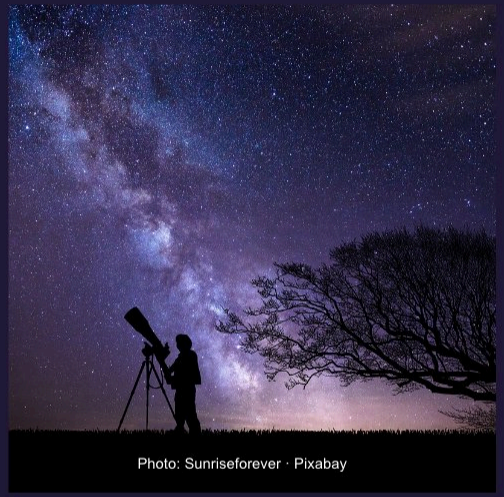


Photo: Sunriseforever · Pixabay



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Quick quiz

1. What is at the centre of our solar system?
2. What does orbit mean?
3. Who orbits faster, Mercury or Neptune?
4. How long is one year on Earth?



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources