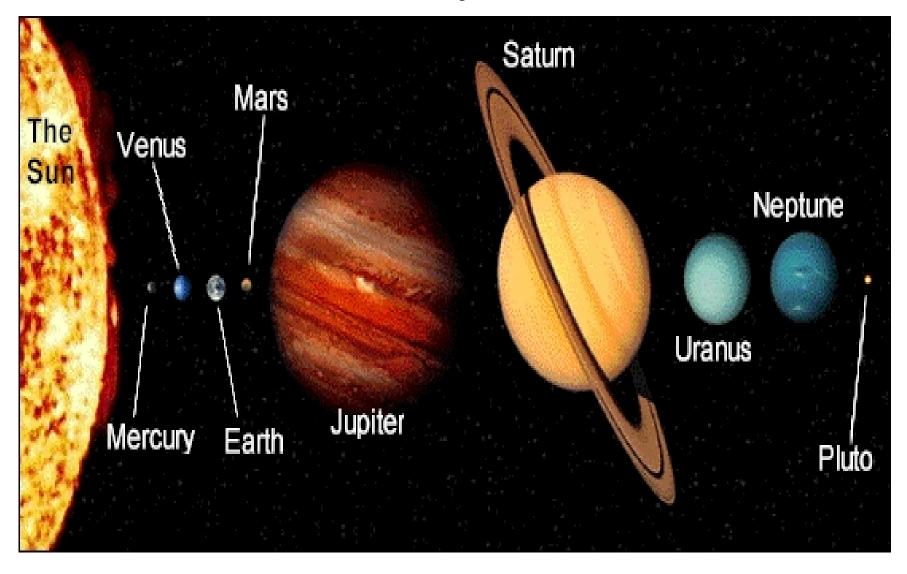
Patterns on Earth

solar system

Refers to a star and all the objects that travel in orbit around it.

Our solar system consists of the sun - our star - eight planets and their natural satellites (such as our moon); dwarf planets; asteroids and comets. Our solar system is located in an outward spiral of the Milky Way galaxy.

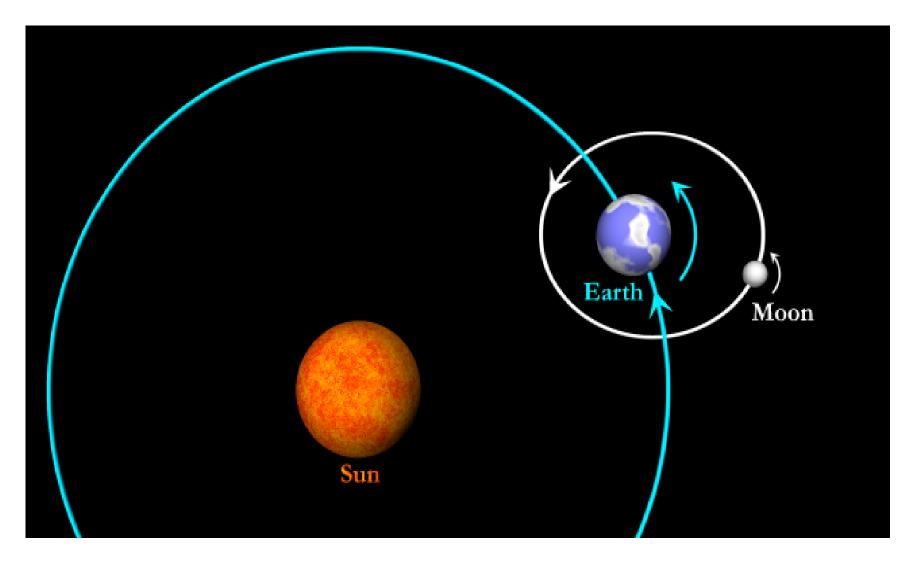
solar system



Earth

Third planet from the sun. The only planet in our solar system that can support life.

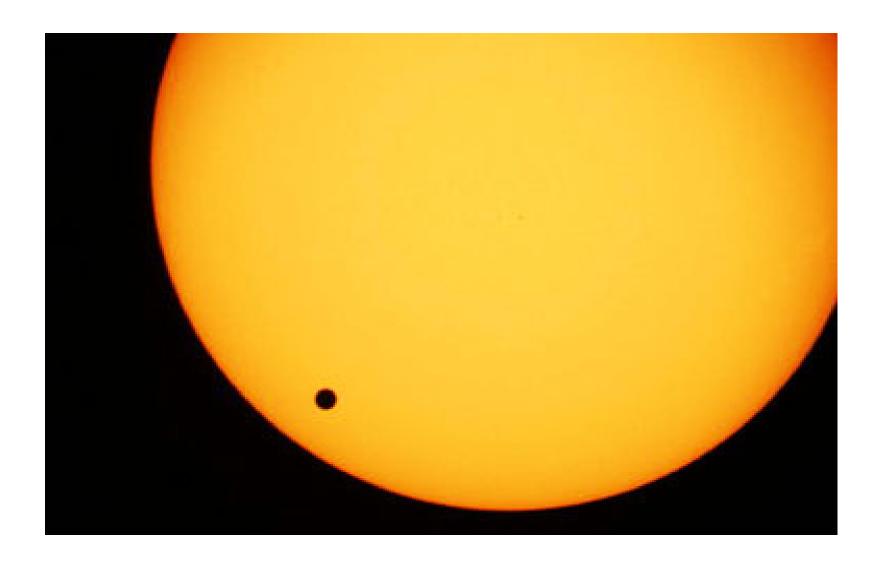
Earth



Sun

The center of our solar system which all planets revolve around. It is Earth's source for heat and light energy. It takes Earth 365 days (1 year) to revolve around the sun 1 time.

sun



Moon

Earth has just one moon. It is 238,857 miles away from Earth. The moon's magnetic pull creates the oceans' tides.

moon



asteroid

A large rock or small planet orbiting the Sun. Most asteroids lie in a "belt" between Mars and Jupiter.

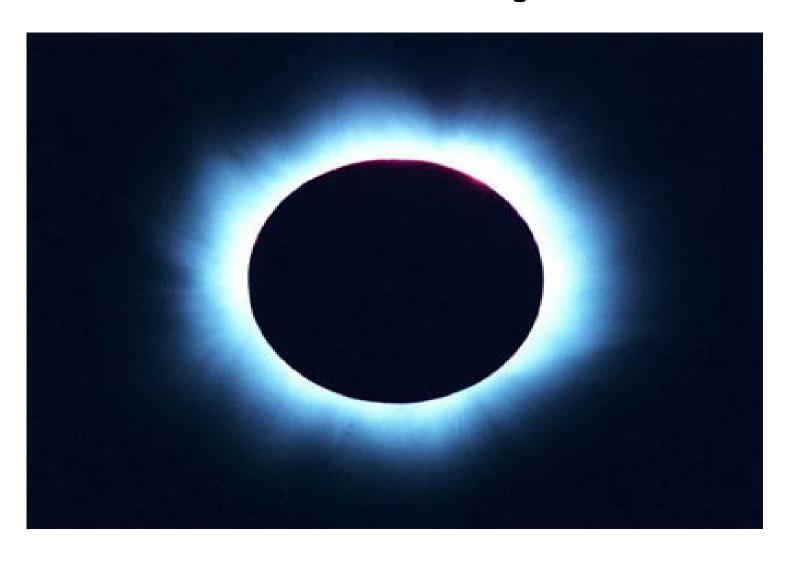
asteroid



lunar eclipse

Occurs when Earth blocks light from the sun making the moon appear darkened.

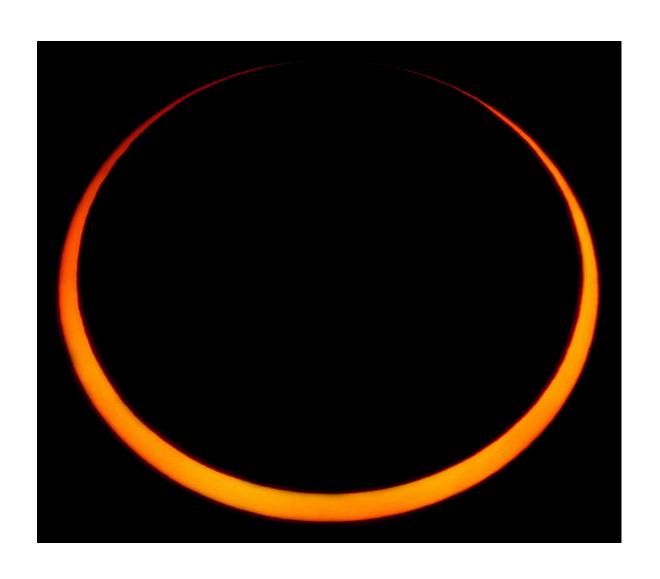
lunar eclipse



solar eclipse

When the sun's light is blocked because the moon is between it and the Earth, it is called a solar eclipse.

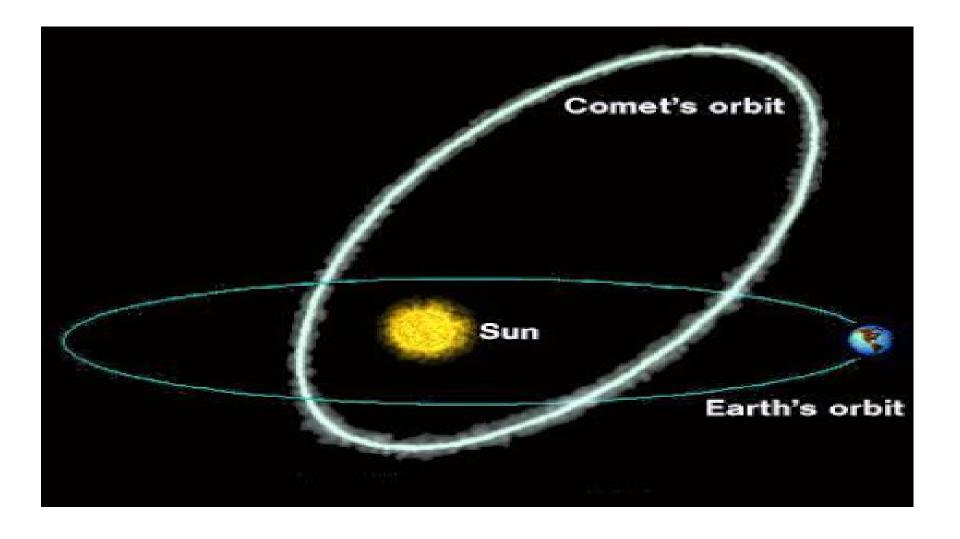
solar eclipse



orbit

The path an object takes as it revolves around another object. Planets in our solar system orbit the Sun.

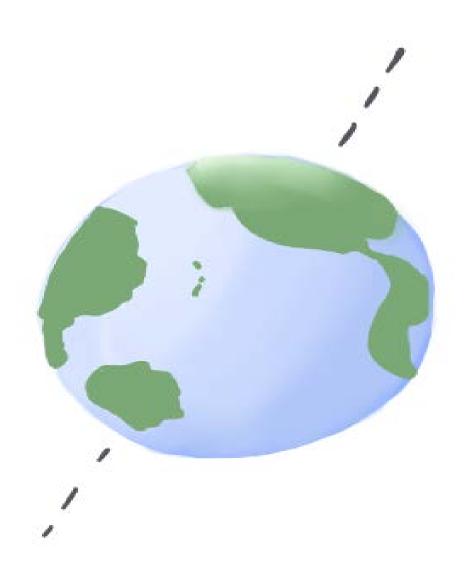
orbit



axis

A slightly tilted, imaginary rod that runs between the north and south poles. As the Earth revolves around the sun, it is rotating on its axis.

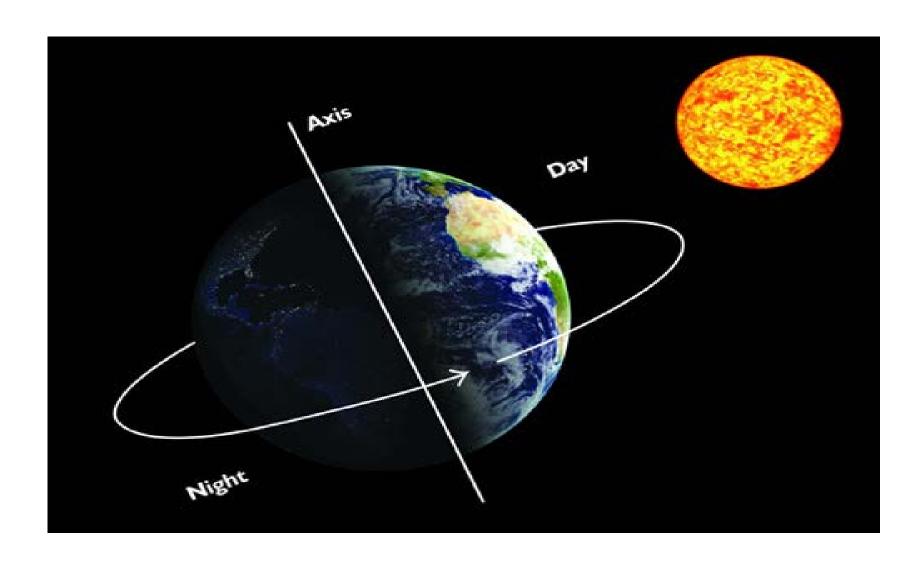
axis



rotate/rotation

To spin around. The Earth rotates on its axis.

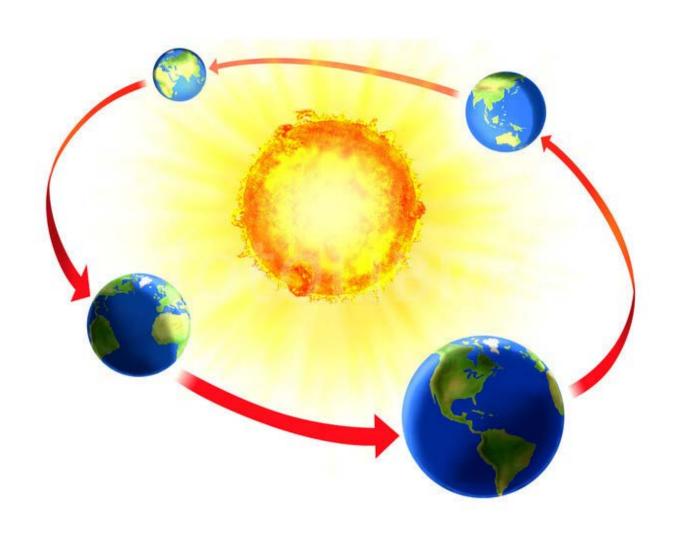
rotate/rotation



revolve/revolution

To revolve is the same as orbit.

revolve/revolution



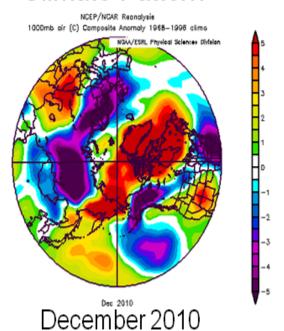
patterns

An arrangement of repeating parts.

patterns



Warm Arctic – Cold Continent Climate Pattern



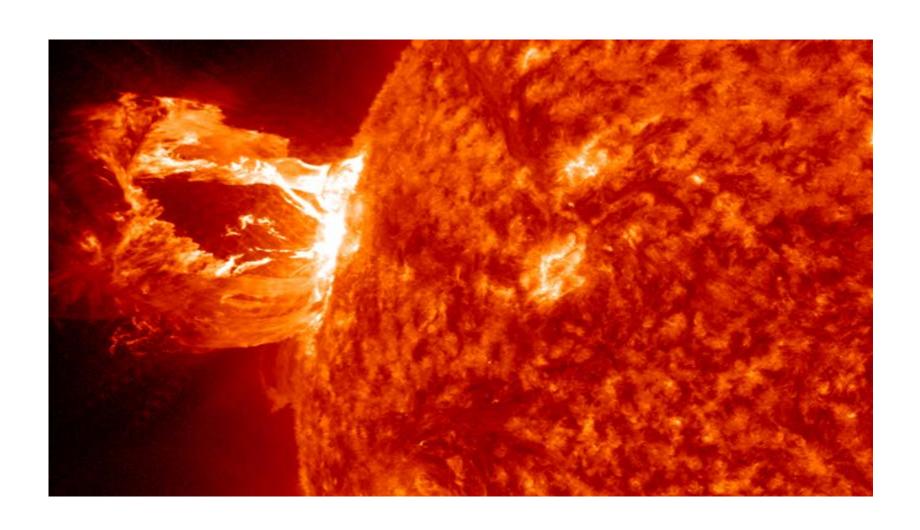
1000 mb Air Temperature Anomalies (1968-1996) (°C)

From NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division

solar flare

A burst of gases and heat that erupts from the sun's surface.

solar flare

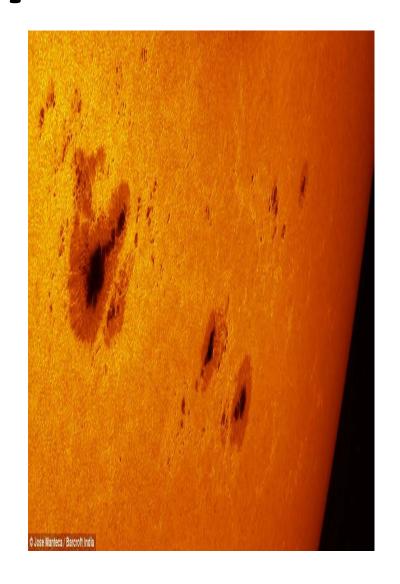


sun spots

Dark, cool spots on the sun's surface where visible evidence of solar flares can be seen.

sun spot





shadows

Created when an object blocks the sun's light.

shadows



tides

It is the wax (rise) and wane (fall) of the ocean's level, created by the moon's gravitational force.

tides



seasons

A cycle that creates four different periods of the year each with specific conditions of weather, temperature, and visible changes in the environment. They're called spring, summer, autumn/fall, and winter.

seasons



THE FOUR SEASONS

TREVOR MORRIS PHOTOGRAPHICS