Y5- Space- The Final Frontier- TOPIC KNOWLEDGE

Topic Vocabularly

Energy- another word for power, created when particles called electrons move from one atom to another.

Orbit-the curved path of a celestial object or spacecraft round a star, planet, or moon.

Reflection- when light, heat or sound bounces off an object without absorbing it.

Celestial body- a large object in the universe (e.g. galaxy, star, planet, comet).

Planet- A planet (e.g Earth) is defined as a spherical celestial body that orbits a star.

Satellite- A satellite orbits a planet. Moons are natural satellites.

Also a machine that is sent into space to collect information or for communication.

Eclipse- A solar eclipse happens when the Moon is between the Sun and the Earth, casting a shadow on the Earth; a lunar eclipse happens when the Earth is between the Sun and the Moon, casting a shadow on the Moon.

Star- an exceptionally hot ball of gas, originally made from hydrogen and helium

Solar system- the collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit round the sun.

Solar- related to the Sun (Sol means Sun).

Universe- all of space and time and their contents (including planets, stars, galaxies, and all other forms of matter/ energy).

Constellation- a group of stars forming a recognizable pattern.

Essential Information

- The universe contains all matter and space in existence.
- The Sun is a star.
- Ptolemy thought that everything orbited the Earth, but scientists like Copernicus and Galileo used telescopes and measurements to show that the Earth orbited the Sun.
- The Solar System is made up of the Sun and the objects that orbit it.
- There are eight major planets in our solar system (in order from the closest to the Sun): Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune.
- Humans have sent man-made satellites into orbit that assist with telecommunication.
- All the planets in the solar system orbit the Sun. The further away they are from the Sun, the langer their orbit.
- The Earth spins around an imaginary line through its centre called an axis.
 This axis is tilted.

- Night and day are the result of the Earth rotating on its axis. Dawn happens at different times across the planet so we divide Earth into time zones.
- The tilt of the Earth towards and away from the Sun's light as the Earth orbits the Sun leads to the seasons as during winter the light is spread over a wider area (see diagram below).

Winter: UK tilts away from the Sun so the sunlight hits at an angle spreading over a big area

Summer: UK tilts towards the Sun so the sunlight hits square on spreading over a small area

- The Moon orbits the Earth roughly every 28 days.
- As the Moon orbits the Sun, different parts of it are lit up by the Sun, which is why we see a different shape lit up on the Moon as the lunar cycle progresses; these are called phases of the Moon.

Key texts:

Planetarium by Chris Wormell and Raman Prinja

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