Earth, Moon and Sun

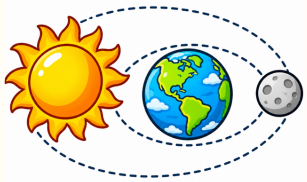
Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Rotation = Earth spinning (1 day). **Revolution** = Earth going around the Sun (1 year). The **Moon** orbits Earth (about 1 month).

Try it: shine a flashlight on a ball and slowly spin the ball. Watch day and night move across it!

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The **Sun** is a star. It is a huge ball of hot, glowing gas, and it gives Earth light and heat. Without the Sun, nothing could live on Earth.

The **Earth** spins like a top. One full spin is called a **rotation**, and it takes about 24 hours, or one day. When our side of Earth faces the Sun, it is daytime. When our side turns away, it is night.

Earth also travels around the Sun in a path called an **orbit**. One full trip is called a **revolution**. It takes about 365 days, or one year.

The **Moon** orbits Earth. It takes about a month to go all the way around. The Moon does not make its own light. It **reflects** light from the Sun. As the Moon moves, we see different amounts of its lit-up side. These changing shapes are called the **phases** of the Moon.

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is the Sun?

(a) A planet (b) A star (c) A moon

2. What causes day and night?

(a) Earth spinning on its axis (b) The Moon blocking the Sun
(c) The Sun turning off

3. How long does Earth take to go around the Sun?

(a) One day (b) One month (c) About one year

4. Why does the Moon shine?

(a) It makes its own light. (b) It reflects light from the Sun. (c) It is on fire.

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2. Sun, Earth or Moon?

Circle the object each fact describes.

1	is a star	Sun	Earth	Moon
2	orbits Earth about once a month	Sun	Earth	Moon
3	spins once a day	Sun	Earth	Moon
4	gives us light and heat	Sun	Earth	Moon
5	has phases	Sun	Earth	Moon
6	orbits the Sun once a year	Sun	Earth	Moon

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **When it is daytime in Canada, it is night on the other side of the world. Why?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. What is the Sun?

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2. What causes day and night?

(a) **Earth spinning on its axis** (b) The Moon blocking the Sun (c) The Sun turning off

3. How long does Earth take to go around the Sun?

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4. Why does the Moon shine?

(a) It makes its own light. (b) **It reflects light from the Sun.** (c) It is on fire.

2. Sun, Earth or Moon?

1	is a star	**Sun**	Earth	Moon
2	orbits Earth about once a month	Sun	Earth	**Moon**
3	spins once a day	Sun	**Earth**	Moon
4	gives us light and heat	**Sun**	Earth	Moon
5	has phases	Sun	Earth	**Moon**
6	orbits the Sun once a year	Sun	**Earth**	Moon

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **When it is daytime in Canada, it is night on the other side of the world. Why?**
   Earth spins, so only the half facing the Sun has daytime. The other half faces away and has night.