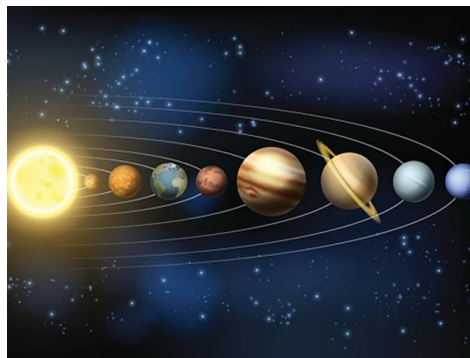


Key vocabulary	
Earth	The planet we live on. It is the third planet from the Sun.
Sun	The Sun is the star at the centre of our solar system. It is not safe to look directly at the Sun, even when wearing dark glasses.
Moon	The moon is the only natural satellite of the Earth.
planets	Large round objects, made of rock or gas, that move around the sun.
solar system	The sun and all the planets that orbit around it.
star	A huge ball of glowing gas in space.
rotate	When an object rotates it turns (spins) on its axis.
orbit	The curved path that an object follows going around a star or a planet.



The Sun is a star at the centre of our solar system.

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

These all **orbit** (travel) around the sun.

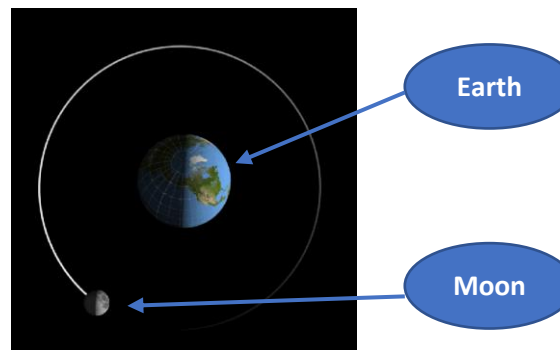
What is Really Out There?

Key Dates in the Space Race	
November 1957	The Soviet Union sends the first living creature, a dog called Laika, into space on Sputnik 2.
April 1961	The Soviet Cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, becomes the first man to travel into space
July 1969	The American's launch Apollo 11 and the astronaut, Neil Armstrong, becomes the first man to walk on the moon.

The Sun, Earth and Moon are approximately spherical bodies.

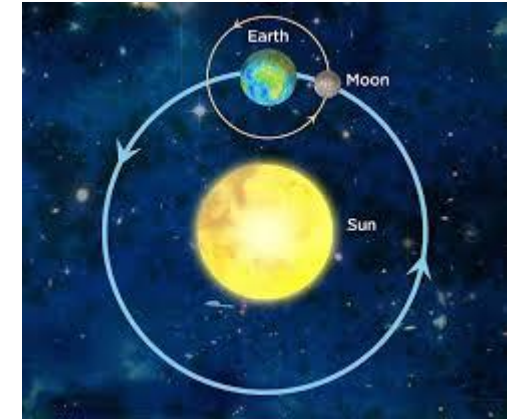
The moon orbits the Earth

It takes about 27 days to complete its orbit.



The Earth orbits the Sun.

It takes 365¼ days to complete its orbit around the Sun. This is a year.



The Earth rotates (spins) on its axis once every 24 hours.

