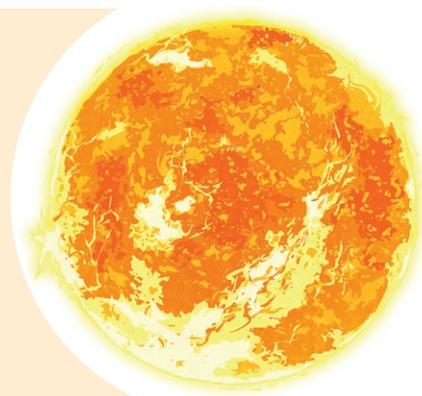


# The Sun

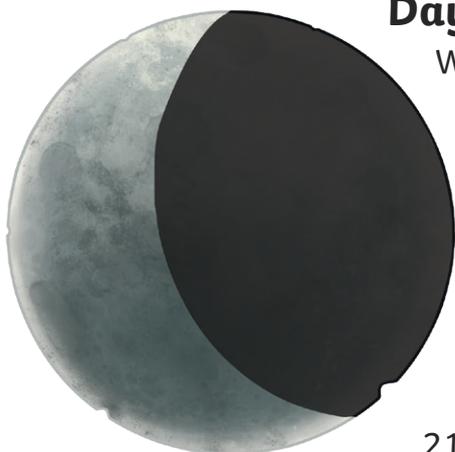
## The Solar System

The sun is the biggest star in the solar system. It is believed to be about 4.5 billion years old. The sun is located at the very centre of our solar system. The distance between planet Earth and the sun is about 150 million kilometres! The sun is made from hydrogen and helium gases.



## Leap Year

Earth is always moving around the Sun. This movement around the sun gives us our seasons. It takes  $365 \frac{1}{4}$  days, or one year, for planet Earth to complete one full rotation around the Sun. You can't have a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a day! So, every four years, we add the four quarters together to make 1 full day. This is called a leap year. There are 366 days in a leap year. The extra day is added to the month of February meaning that February has 29 days, instead of 28, in a leap year.

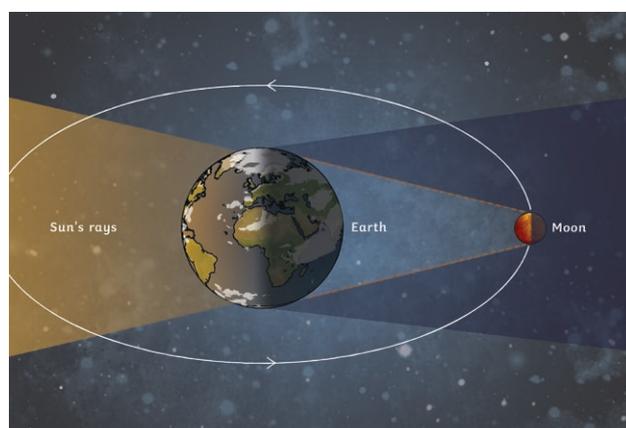


## Day and Night

While Earth is moving around the Sun, it is also spinning on its own axis. It takes Earth 24 hours to complete one full spin. It is the spinning of earth that gives us day and night. During the summer we have longer days and shorter nights, but during the winter we have shorter days and longer nights. The shortest day of the year is on 21<sup>st</sup> December. The longest day of the year is on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

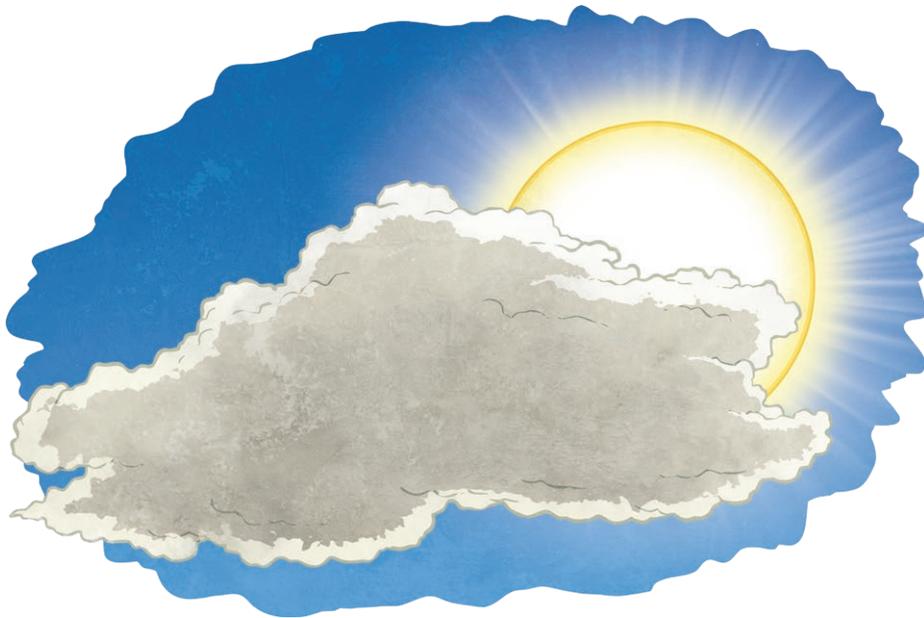
## Eclipse

A lunar eclipse happens when the Earth passes between the Moon and the Sun. This causes the Earth's shadow to block the Sun's rays from reaching the Moon.



## Dangers of the Sun

The Sun is very important for life on Earth. We need the sun for many reasons such as light, heat and food. Plants and animals also need the sun. Without the sun, we would not be able to survive. However, we must be careful because the sun can also be dangerous. Our skin can burn if we spend too much time in the sunlight. The rays from the sun can damage our eyes. We should never look at the sun directly. We can protect ourselves from the dangers of the sun by wearing sun cream. Sunglasses can help to protect our eyes.



# Questions

1. What is the sun?  

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2. What is the sun made from?  

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3. How old is the sun believed to be?  

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4. How long does it take the Earth to rotate around the Sun?  

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5. Explain how a leap year happens.  

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6. When will the next leap year occur?  

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7. Explain the meaning of the term lunar eclipse.  

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8. Give examples of ways in which the Sun is important for planet Earth.  

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9. Why would humans not survive without the sun?  

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10. Describe some precautions we can take to protect ourselves from the dangers of the sun.  

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