KS2 SCIENCE · EARTH AND SPACE

Day and Night Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Use the interactive model, then answer the questions. Write in full sentences.

A FILL THE GAPS

Word bank: axis · 24 hours · Sun · east · west · night · rotates

1. The Earth spins on an imaginary line called its _____.
2. The Earth _____ (spins) once every _____.
3. The half of the Earth that faces the _____ has day.
4. The half that faces away from the Sun has _____.
5. The Sun seems to rise in the _____ and set in the _____.

B TRUE OR FALSE? Tick one box.

	True	False
1. The Sun moves around the Earth every day.	☐	☐
2. At any moment, half of the Earth is in daylight.	☐	☐
3. One full turn of the Earth takes 1 year.	☐	☐
4. When it is day in London, it can be night in Sydney.	☐	☐
5. Night happens because clouds cover the Sun.	☐	☐

C MATCH THE WORD TO ITS MEANING. Draw a line.

axis	the path the Earth takes around the Sun
rotation	when the Sun goes out of sight in the evening
orbit	an imaginary line through the North and South Poles
sunrise	when the Sun first appears in the morning
sunset	one full spin of the Earth

D DRAW IT

Draw the Sun's path across the sky.
Label: sunrise, midday, sunset, east, west.

_____

horizon

E THINK

It is midday in London.
Is it day or night in Sydney? Explain why.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Answers for parents and teachers

Use these answers to mark the worksheet. Praise good explanations, not only right words.

A FILL THE GAPS

1. axis 2. rotates, 24 hours 3. Sun 4. night 5. east, west

B TRUE OR FALSE

1. False – the Earth spins; the Sun stays still. It only looks like the Sun moves.
2. True – the half facing the Sun is in daylight.
3. False – one full turn (rotation) takes 24 hours. One orbit of the Sun takes 1 year.
4. True – London and Sydney are on opposite sides of the Earth.
5. False – clouds can hide the Sun, but night happens because our side faces away from the Sun.

C MATCHING

axis – an imaginary line through the North and South Poles
rotation – one full spin of the Earth
orbit – the path the Earth takes around the Sun
sunrise – when the Sun first appears in the morning
sunset – when the Sun goes out of sight in the evening

D DRAW IT

An arc that starts low on the left (east, sunrise), is highest in the middle (midday) and ends low on the right (west, sunset), when you face south in the UK.

E THINK

It is night in Sydney. Sydney is on the other side of the Earth, so it faces away from the Sun when London faces the Sun.

TEACHER NOTE

National Curriculum (Year 5, Earth and space): pupils should use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky.
This sheet also works for Year 6 revision.
Common mix-up: rotation (one spin, 24 hours) and orbit (one trip round the Sun, 1 year).