

Rising and Setting of the Sun Class Activities (Ages 8-11)



Today we are going to investigate:

- How the Sun moves through the sky during the day
- What causes day and night
- How the Earth turns and how long it takes

Activities

- 1 Start up Night Sky and use your finger to move the sky around. Can you find the Sun? When you have found the Sun open the main menu and touch the Space Travel tab. It looks like the picture on the right →

Use the fast forward button  to speed up time. Keep tapping the button to increase the speed. Follow the Sun as it moves across the sky. When the Sun has gone under the horizon use the pause button to stop time. This is **sunset**.

Question:

What direction did the Sun set in?

- 2 Start the Sun moving again by tapping the pause button . Watch the Sun moving under the horizon and follow it by moving the screen (tip – you may need to speed up to x1000!). When the Sun rises above the horizon again this is **sunrise**. Use the pause button to stop time.

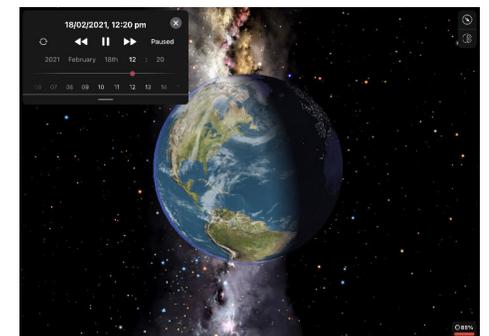
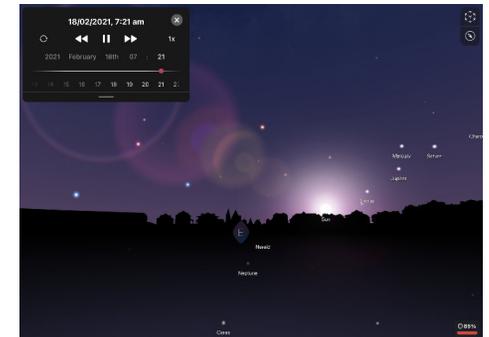
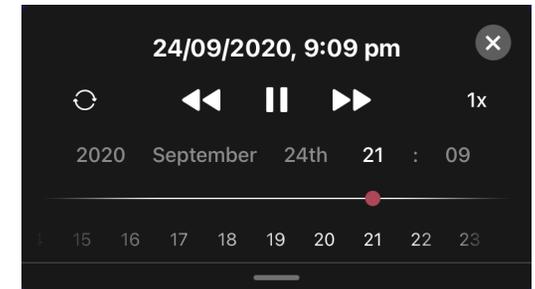
Question:

What direction did the Sun rise in?

- 3 Tap the reset button  on the Space Travel tab to show the sky as it is now. Touch the screen below the horizon with two fingers and pinch until the 3D Earth globe appears floating in space. Move the Earth with your finger and find the country where you live. Look to see if it is lit up or in darkness where you live.

Question:

Why is part of the Earth lit up and the other half in the dark?



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Use the fast forward button  on the Space Travel tab to speed up time (tip – you may need to speed up to x1000!) What do you notice about how the Earth moves?

Question:

How long does it take for the Earth to turn around once?

24 hours

28 days

one year

Question:

What do we call the movement of the Earth turning?

orbit

rotation

wobbling

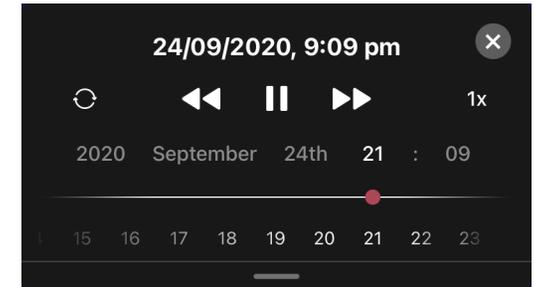
Question:

What do we call it when the Sun disappears below the horizon at the end of a day?

sunrise

sunscreen

sunset



What we have discovered:

- Every day the Sun rises over the horizon at sunrise
- During the day, the Sun appears to move through the sky
- Every day the Sun sets under the horizon
- It is day time between sunrise and sunset
- The Earth rotates every 24 hours and this appears to make the Sun move in the sky

 Well done!
You're a Night Sky
Superstar! 