EARTH AND SPACE

WHAT IS EARTH LIKE?

Earth is the third planet from the Sun. It is the only planet known to have life. Earth is made up of land, water, and air, and it has everything living things need to survive, such as oxygen, food, and water. Earth is also constantly moving. It spins around an imaginary line called an axis, which causes day and night. It also orbits the Sun in a path called an orbit, which takes about 365 days to complete.

WHAT IS GRAVITY?

Gravity is a force that pulls things toward the centre of the Earth. It is the reason why we stay on the ground instead of floating off into space. Gravity pulls everything toward Earth, from the smallest pebble to the tallest mountain. It also holds our oceans, air, and atmosphere in place. Without gravity, we would not be able to walk, jump, or even stay in one place. It is the force that helps keep the Moon in orbit around the Earth and the Earth in orbit around the Sun.

THE SUN AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM

The Sun is the star at the centre of our solar system. It gives us light and heat, which are essential for life on Earth. The Sun is very big and very hot. In fact, it is so hot that it can reach temperatures of over 15 million degrees Celsius at its core. The Sun's heat helps keep the Earth warm enough for living things to survive.

The solar system consists of the Sun, eight planets, and their moons. The planets, including Earth, orbit around the Sun. The planets are made of different materials, and they are all unique in size, colour, and temperature.

THE MOON AND ITS INFLUENCE

The Moon is Earth's closest neighbour in space. It is the only natural satellite of Earth. The Moon has a big effect on Earth, especially when it comes to the ocean tides. The gravitational pull of the Moon creates the rise and fall of the tides on Earth's oceans. The Moon also orbits the Earth, taking about 28 days to complete one cycle.

EXPLORING OUTER SPACE

Beyond the planets and the Moon, there is much more to explore. Outer space is filled with stars, galaxies, asteroids, and comets. It is vast and largely unknown. Scientists use telescopes to study stars and planets far away. Space exploration has also been made possible by space probes and spacecraft

that have sent back pictures and information from distant planets, moons, and even the edges of our solar system.

Space is a mysterious place that scientists continue to study. They want to learn more about how the universe began and how it works. One of the most exciting goals for space exploration is to send humans to other planets, such as Mars.

FIND OUT MORE…

Earth and Space Year 5 - BBC Bitesize

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. What is gravity and how does it affect us on Earth?
2. Why is Earth considered the only planet that has life?
3. How long does it take for Earth to complete one orbit around the Sun?
4. What causes the ocean tides on Earth?
5. What is the Sun, and why is it important for life on Earth?