#### The Sun – Earth – Moon System

# **Planet Earth**

# Shape

Spherical

Oval shaped

# Rotation

- West to east\*
- Fifteen degree /hour\*
- Rotation is just less than 24 hours
- Magnetic field
  - North and south magnetic poles
  - Protect the earth from solar wind\*



#### **Earth's revolution\***

- Earth's orbit around the sun
- Shape is elliptical
- 365.25 days
- Closest to the sun
   on January 3
- Farthest from the sun on July 4



# Tilt of the Earth 23.5

- Tilts on its axis 23.5 degrees
- This tilt of the earth is what causes the seasons

# Equinox\*

- Autumnal Equinox 9/22 or 9/23
- Spring Equinox<sup>March 21</sup> 3/20 or 3/21











#### Solstice\*

- Summer 6/21 or 6/22
- Winter 12/21 or 12/22





June 22





Dec 22



# Quiz

- 1. How much does the earth tilt on its axes?
- 2. What direction does the earth rotate?
- 3. When is the earth closest to the sun?
- 4. What season does the solstice start when the sun is pointing at the tropic of cancer?
- 5. Which equinox starts the first day of Spring?

#### The moon

Space object nearest to earth
Romans called it Luna which means shining
From the word Luna we get the word lunar, which refers to the moon



#### Features of the moon

- Diameter 3,476 km in diameter
- Distance from earth 384,400 km
- Gravity 1/6 that of earth
- Moon's motion
  - Moon revolves around the earth in 27 1/3 earth days\*
  - Moon rotates on its axis
    - 1 moon day = 27 1/3 earth days\*

### Phases of the moon

- The moon is ½ illuminated most of the time (except during a lunar eclipse)
- The moon phases we see depend on how much of the illuminated side we see, not on how much is illuminated\*
- The moon revolves from west to east at 13 o / day
  - This causes the moon to come up 50 minutes later each 24 hour period\*





# Phases of the Moon

- The movement of the earth and moon are the reason the moon appears to have phases
- The names of the moon phases using the (DOC)\* Method
- New moon the moon is between the sun & earth
- Waxing Crescent moon
- First Quarter is 1/2 of the moon showing
- Waxing Gibbous
- Full
- Waning gibbous
- Last quarter
- Waning crescent



Third quarter

Waning crescent

New moon

Waning gibbous

Full moon

First quarter

Waxing crescent

Waxing gibbous

#### Phases of the Moon











# Eclipses

- The result of shadows cast by the earth and the moon
- There is a main shadow and a partial shadow
   The main shadow is the umbra\*
  - The partial shadow is the penumbra\*

#### Lunar eclipse

When the mood moves into the earth's shadow Umbra



The moon is darkened The moon looks like a copper red disc The red tone of the moon is caused by the atmosphere of the earth bending the sun rays

# Lunar Eclipse



## Solar Eclipse –

- when the earth moves into the moons shadow
- Solar eclipse is longest at the equator 7.5 minutes
- When the sun shines through Deep valleys on the moon, during a solar eclipse, beads or string of bright light form and are called "Bailey's Beads"
- Partial eclipses are more common than total eclipses

# Solar Eclipse

#### Total Solar Eclipse 1999

ography Militalay Druckmüller & Hana DruckmüllerovA. Image processing Miloslav Druckmüller



#### Eclipses

- How can an object the size of the moon cover an object the size of the sun?\

   The sun is 400 times larger than the moon
  - Sun diameter 1 392 000 km
  - Moon's diameter 3 476 km
  - The sun is also 400 times farther away
  - Sun's distance from earth 149,000,000 km
  - Moon's distance from earth 384,400 km

# Lunar Surface and composition

- Surface solid rock covered with dust
- The moon has no atmosphere
- Because of no atmosphere temperatures vary from 130o C to –170oC in the shadows
- Moon's crust is 1 to 300 km thick
- Pieces of rock from space bombard the surface since there is no atmosphere to burn up those things falling toward its surface.

#### Craters

- The results of the meteorites hitting the surface of the moon
- 30,000 named craters on the moon Copernicus is 91 km from rim to rim



# Lunar Surface

- The moon plain is called Maria (the dark areas)
  - Maria is Latin for sea
  - Maria is formed from hardened lava
- Lunar Highlands (the light areas)
  - mountains formed from huge chunks of rock hitting the moons surface
  - Mountains are as high as 5 km above the moons surface



### **Moons composition**

- Rocks brought from the moon by
- Apollo astronauts show composition much like earth
- Moon's crust oxygen, silicon aluminum, Iron, calcium
- Moon dust is much like our sand



# Origin of the moon

- Appears to be the same age as earth
- No signs of past life
- One theory is moon another planet pulled in by earth's gravity
- Another theory is that the moon and earth formed from the same dust within gravitational pull.
- Another theory is that during earth's formation a piece was flung free from the earth
- Impact theory- collision of mars sized object with earth

