

29 Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation³ was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

Daniel and the Lions' Den Ch. 6

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps⁴, to be throughout the whole kingdom; 2 and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. 3 Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. 4 Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. 5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

6 Then these⁵ high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! 7 All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the injunction⁶ and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a

³ Proclamation: An official announcement

⁴ Satraps: Provincial governors in the ancient Persian empire

⁵ Ordinance: An official command

⁶ Injunction: An authoritative warning or order

interpretation of the matter. 16 But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.”

17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation. 18 O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty. 19 And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive; whom he would, he raised up, and whom he would, he humbled. 20 But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him. 21 He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will. 22 And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, 23 but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house² have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.

24 “Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. 25 And this is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. 26 This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; 27 Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; 28 Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

² Vessels of His house: The gold and silver cups in (verse 2), that were taken from the temple.

Earth's Movement

Chapter 3

Focus on where you are right now as you read this. Are you moving? Yes, you are, even if you are holding very still. Planet Earth is moving, so you are moving with it. Because of your tiny size compared to Earth's size, you cannot feel Earth's movement through space. But relative to the sun and other objects in space, Earth is in constant motion. Although you cannot feel Earth's motion, you can observe clues about it by looking to the sky.

Think about riding on a park merry-go-round. On one side of the merry-go-round are trees and a bench. You see them speed past as you spin. Around you go, and in the other direction you see a swing set and climbing bars pass by. But are the trees and swing set really passing by your field of vision? No, it is you and the merry-go-round that are in motion. This is what happens when the sun and stars seem to move across the sky in a day or a night. Earth is spinning, so you move beneath the section of the sky where those objects are visible.



The merry-go-round rotates around a center point. What the rider can see changes as she rotates with the merry-go-round.

Big Question

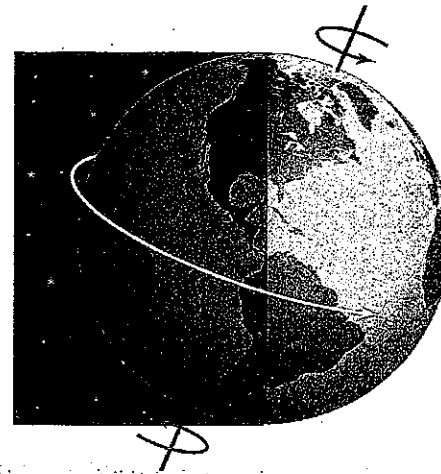
How does Earth move in space?

Earth Rotates on Its Axis

A merry-go-round is a flat shape that spins. Earth is a sphere, the shape of a ball. Earth rotates around its **axis**. An axis is an imaginary line through the center of an object. The axis is a fixed point of reference.

Vocabulary

axis, n. an imaginary line through the center of an object that is a fixed point of reference



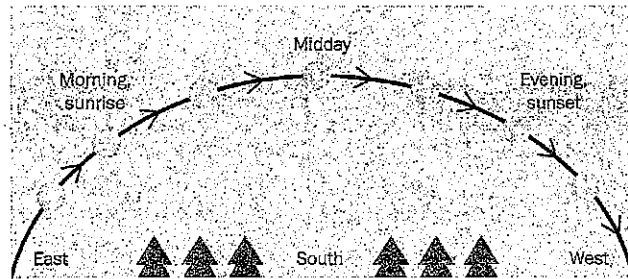
What you see in the sky depends on where you are on Earth's spherical surface. Two people on opposite sides of Earth's surface see different things when they look to the sky at the same time. One sees night, and one sees day. And what you see in the sky changes. It depends on which direction your location on Earth is facing at any given time. Earth makes one full rotation around its axis every twenty-four hours, one day.

Throughout the course of a day, the sun appears to move across the sky. When the sun is not visible at night, patterns of stars become visible. They, too, appear to move across the sky. But remember that this is apparent movement. Earth's motion changes where these objects appear in the sky.

If you observe the apparent movement of the sun and the stars, day after day and night after night, a very clear pattern emerges. They move across the sky from east to west. Earth spins from west to east. As you, at a point on Earth's surface, spin past objects in the sky, they appear to you to be moving in the direction opposite of what you are actually moving.



Shadows change throughout the day as the position of the sun changes. This is evidence that there is movement in the system that includes Earth and the sun.



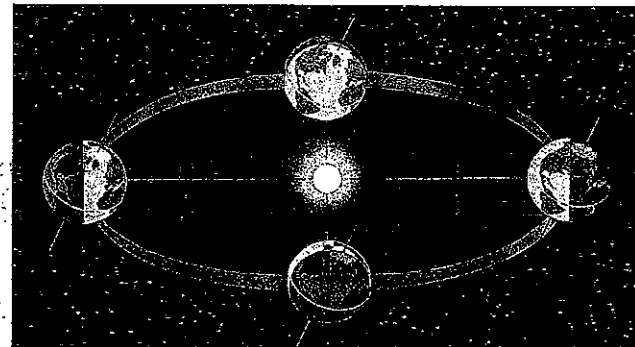
The sun's path across the sky is always from east to west. But the shape of its arc depends on the season and location. From most of the United States, in the Northern Hemisphere, the sun's path across the sky appears generally like this.

Earth Revolves Around the Sun

In a single day or night, you can see evidence of Earth's rotation. This is evidence that Earth spins on its axis. But you can also see evidence that Earth is moving in an orbit around the sun. As Earth moves in its orbit, we can see different constellations.

Constellations appear to move across the sky every night. This is evidence that Earth spins around its axis. In addition, visible constellations change with the seasons. This is evidence that Earth also orbits the sun.

In Earth's orbit around the sun, the nighttime side faces different regions of space, with different constellations, during different seasons of the year. Stars that are visible during summer nights are on the daytime side of Earth during the winter, so they are not visible then.



During different seasons, Earth's nighttime side faces different regions of outer space. So, in different seasons, we see different sets of stars in the night sky.

Name _____

Date _____

Activity Page 4.1 (Page 1 of 2)

Use with Lesson 4.

The Movement of Earth

1. Draw diagrams to explain each of the following. Be sure to include labels and descriptions as needed.

Rotation	Revolution
What makes day?	What makes night?

Activity Page 4.1 (Page 2 of 2)

Use with Lesson 4.

Examining Shadows

2. Place the ruler or stick about one inch into the soil so that it is standing upright. Record your observations in the table.

Time of day	Drawing of the stick and its shadow

- a) How did the shadow change throughout the day?

- b) What caused the appearance of the shadow to change?

Name _____

Date _____

Activity Page 5.1

Use with Lesson 5.

Patterns and Evidence of Movement

Complete the table to describe the patterns of movement and the evidence to explain how we know the movement occurs.

Pattern of Movement	Evidence to Support
Earth rotates on its axis.	
Earth's axis is tilted.	
Earth revolves around the sun.	
Earth is a sphere.	