

Show your parents
Chapter 24.

Going around

Let's talk about planet Earth.



[Clker.com FREE CLIPART. Many thanks
<http://www.clker.com/cliparts/6/7/a/e/13995180031432111734Top.svg.med.png>]

Correct. This is not the Earth. It's a spinning top, spinning around on the spot.



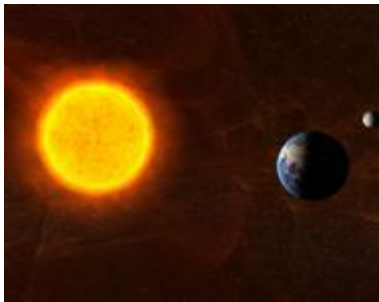
[Foto: Stefan Brending / Lizenz: Creative Commons CC-BY-SA-3.0 de
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2018_DM_Leichtathletik_-_400-Meter-Huerden_Frauen_-_Alica_Schmidt_-_by_2eight_-_DSC7136.jpg]

Correct again!! This is not the planet Earth – it is people running around in a big circle.

We know what the Sun looks like. We know what it does, it gives us sunburn [yes, but that's not that important at the moment] – it gives us light.

If you are in a dark room and you shine a torch on things, the light only gets on the sides of things which are facing the torch. The Sun is like a huge torch.

OK, so, when you are on the part of the Earth which is facing the Sun – is it daytime or night-time?



[Daylight for the part of the Earth facing the Sun]

Well, there is plenty of light [coming straight to you from the Sun] so it must be daytime.

We know the Earth spins around on the spot. So, what would you see if you went to school, played, came home, had something to eat and 12 hours later, looked out of the window?

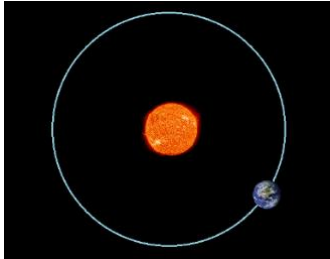
You wouldn't see anything, because it would be night.

I would be night – because the Earth would have spun around so that another part was now facing the Sun, and getting light, and the part you were on would be away from the Sun, and no light could get to you.

So, how long does it take for the Earth to spin around once? One day and one night – that is, 24 hours.

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OK, we know from Chapter 6 that the 7 planets go around the Sun.
Like those runners racing around the athletics field.
The closest planet to the Sun is Mercury, then comes Venus, and then Earth.



[<https://leepavelich.wordpress.com/2012/03/05/back-of-the-envelope-calculation-earths-orbital-velocity/>]

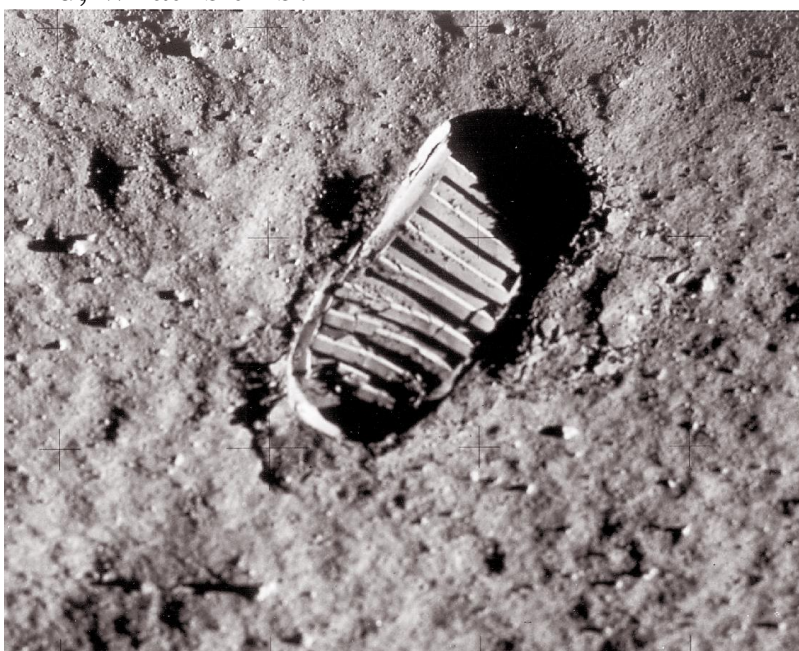
How long does it take for the Earth to go around the Sun once? The answer is 365 days – that is, one year.

So – we have just learned that the Earth spins around like a top, and it takes 24 hours to turn around once – it is this spinning on the spot that gives us day and night. Also, the Earth goes around the Sun and it takes one year for it to get around once. Not bad to know!

So, what goes around the Earth?

Yes, the Moon.

And, what is this?



[https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/home/F_Apollo_11.html]

This is the first footprint ever made on the Moon [by Neil Armstrong] in 1969 – from long before Mummy and Daddy were born. [So, what would they know about it?]

Stonehenge



[Stonehenge Monument Air Clouds Tourism by Doodlebug.
<https://cleanpublicdomain.com/downloads/stonehenge-monument-air-clouds-tourism/>]

Stonehenge is in England and one of the great mysteries of the world. As you can see, it is a circle of huge stones [about 100 metres across]. Many of these huge stones [about 3 metres high] are standing on one end – mostly they are in pairs, and another huge stone is laid across the top.

Stonehenge is a mystery because we don't know

1. How it was built, or
2. Why it was built.

Well, it was built by English people – they started about 5,000 years ago, and they changed it quite a bit for a couple of thousand years. Of course, these stones are very heavy [some weigh as much as four African elephants each].

Some stones were brought from 25 kilometres away, and some were brought from 225 kilometres away – probably on sledges. Nobody

really knows how they managed; especially, how did they get the lying down ones on top of the standing ones?

An old legend says Stonehenge was built on a mountain in another country by giants, and moved to England by a magician called Merlin. Unfortunately, that is not true, but it is a good story.

Why was Stonehenge built? We are not sure about this either. At special times of the year the Sun peeps under some of these arches, so this might be a calendar – a way to tell people when the weather is going to change from cold to hot and stuff like that.

It is good to have a good mystery – it stops your brain going stiff.

Pangolins

Pangolins are very unusual animals – they are mammals [mothers feed their babies milk] – they eat ants and termites and they are mainly found in Africa.

Pangolins have large hard scales [a suit of armour] and can grow to 1 metre in length. They live in trees or in burrows.

Pangolins are endangered [that means there are not many left, and they need to be protected] because some people kill them – these killers think [but they are wrong] that you can make medicine out of pangolin scales.

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[Photo: Olivier Laude for Bloomberg Businessweek
<https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/long-reads/article/3023842/chinese-and-vietnamese-demand-pangolin-scales>]



[A pangolin in defensive posture, Horniman Museum, London
Stephencdickson via Wikimedia Commons
<https://answersingenesis.org/kids/mammals/pangolin/>]

When they need protection, they roll themselves into a ball – when they do this, even lions may not be able to hurt them.

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Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Ya.

Ya who?

Wow, I'm excited to see you too!



[Belinda Fewings@bel2000a
<https://unsplash.com/photos/73XDjmZQo6Y>]

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Figs.

Figs who?

Figs the doorbell, it's broken!



[Geran de Klerk@gerandeklerk
<https://unsplash.com/photos/bKhETeDV1WM>]