

UKS2 – Lesson Plan 1

What makes day and night on Earth?

Aim: To understand how Earth's rotation creates day and night.	Key Words: Rotation, Earth, day, night, axis	Preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Globe or model of Earth• Torch or lamp (to represent the Sun)• Dark room or space with dim lighting
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Prior Learning: basic understanding of day and night.

Warm-up:

Ask children to describe what happens from morning to night and how the Sun appears to move across the sky. Show a simple diagram of the Earth and Sun to set the stage for further discussion.

Main Teach:

1. **Explain Earth's Rotation:** describe how the Earth spins on its axis, causing different parts to experience daylight and darkness.
2. **Demonstration:** use a globe and a torch in a dark room to show how the Earth's rotation causes day and night. Rotate the globe while shining the torch on it to simulate the Sun's light.
3. **Discuss the Axis:** explain the concept of the Earth's axis and how its tilt affects the length of day and night.

Activity:

Day and Night Model: children create a simple model using a globe (or ball) and a torch. They take turns rotating the globe and observing how different parts are illuminated, simulating day and night. They then draw and label what they observed on their worksheet.

Extension Challenge:

Day and Night Timeline: research and create a timeline showing how the length of day and night changes throughout the year in different locations on Earth. Present findings to the class.

Plenary:

Review how Earth's rotation causes day and night. Discuss how this rotation affects the time of day in different parts of the world. Encourage children to reflect on the importance of understanding this concept.

ART	Design and create a day and night collage using different materials to represent various times of the day.
D.T.	Build a simple rotating model of the Earth's axis with a pivot and labels showing day and night.