

The Earth travels round the Sun in 365¼ days, which we call a year. Every four years we add an extra day to February to use up the ¼ days. This is called a Leap Year. The Earth travels at a speed of over 107,000 kilometres an hour. (You have travelled 600 kilometres through space while reading this!)

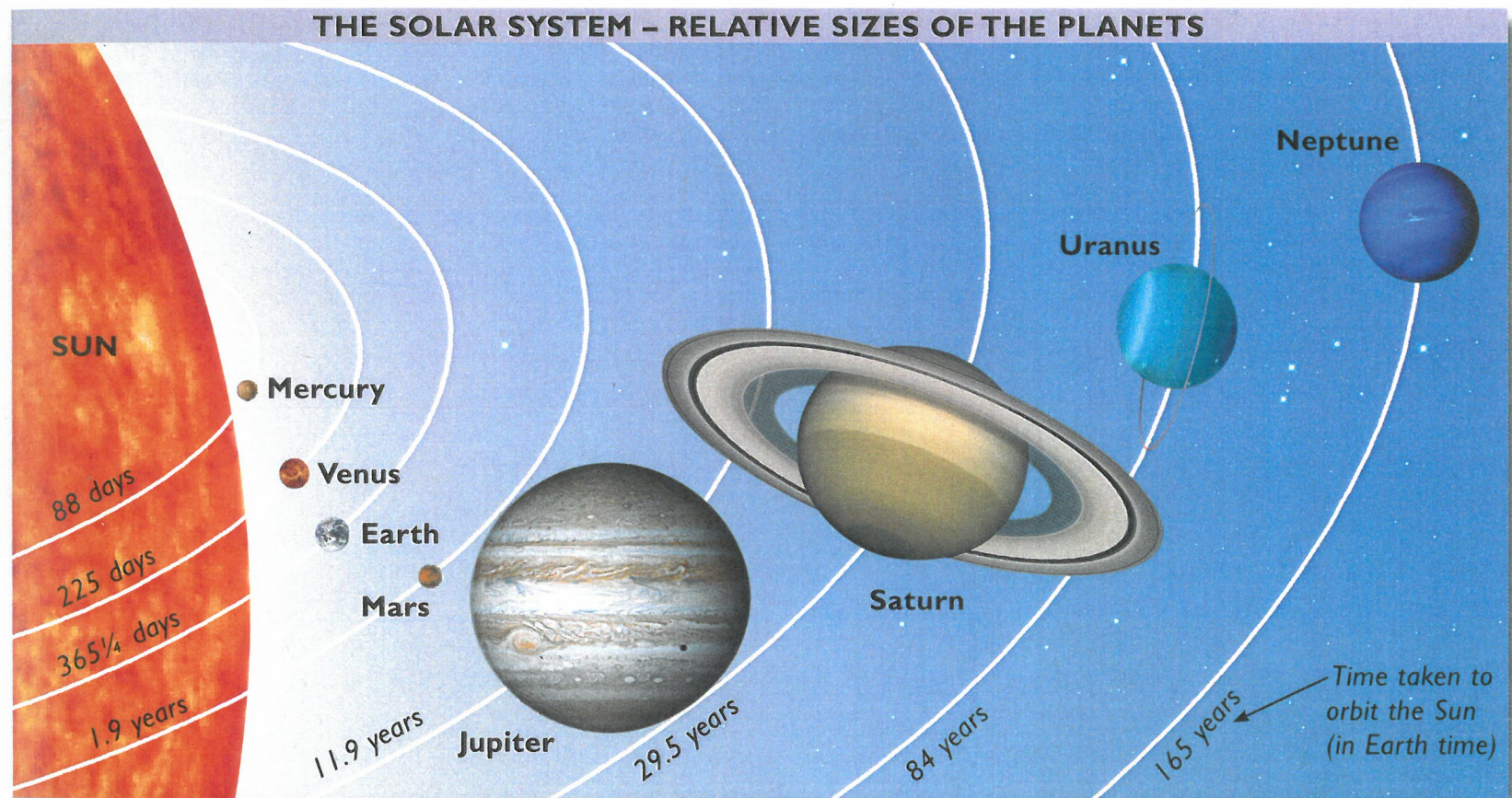
The Earth also spins round and round as it travels through space. It spins round once in 24 hours, which we call a day. Places on the Equator

are spinning at 1660 kilometres an hour. Because of the way the Earth moves, we experience day and night, and different seasons during a year (see page 13). No part of our planet is too hot or too cold for life to survive. Yet the Earth is 150 million kilometres from the Sun.

The Moon is our nearest neighbour in space. It is 384,400 kilometres away. The first men to reach the Moon took four days to travel there in 1969. On the way, they took

many photos of the Earth, such as the one on the left. The Earth looks very blue from space because of all the sea. It is the only planet in the Solar System with sea. Look at the swirls of cloud. These show that the Earth has an atmosphere. Our atmosphere contains oxygen and water vapour, and it keeps all living things alive.

The diagram below shows all the planets in our Solar System. The Earth is the third planet from the Sun.



EARTH FROM SPACE

◀ **Glaciers in the Himalayas**, as can be seen from space. The white stripes are glaciers, or 'rivers of ice' in the valleys. There is snow on the mountains.

▶ **The Great Lakes** from space. Look at the map on page 75 to find their names. On the east (right) is the Atlantic Ocean.