

G.D.GOENKA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Subject: S.St

(Geography)

Topic: Motions of the Earth

Date:28-0-2021 (Thursday)

Grade VI

This material is not to be printed.

Learning Objective

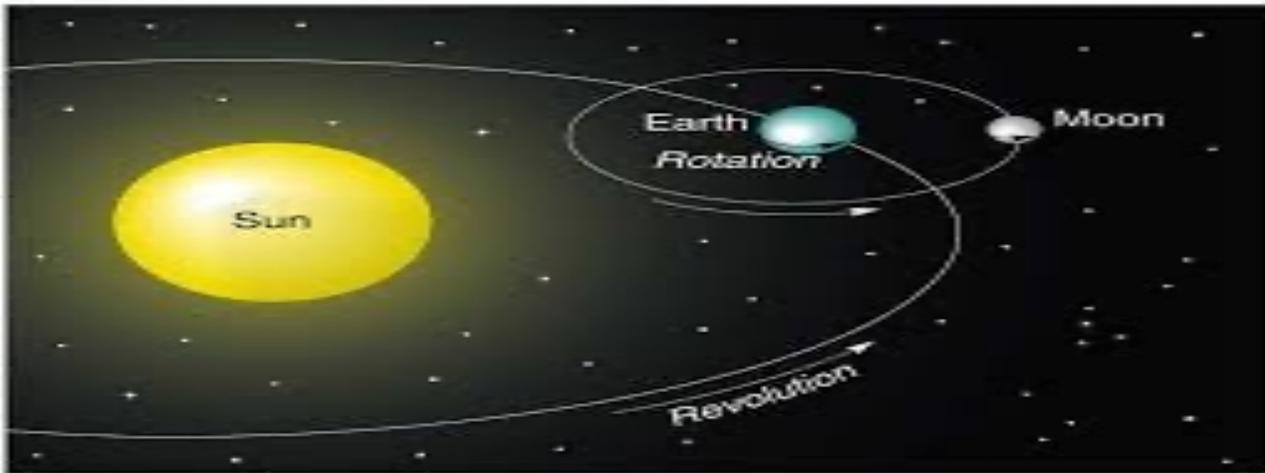
- Define the terms rotation and revolution of the earth .
- Explain what causes a leap year .
- Identify the two reasons that the seasons change.

The ancient people had always observed the movement of the sun,the moon and other heavenly bodies in the sky and believed that the earth was stationary and other heavenly bodies moved around it.

Nicolaus Copernicus who was a Polish astronomer ,in the 16 th century was the first to say that the earth only appeared to be stationary and actually the earth not only spins on its axis but also moves around the sun.

Thus the earth has two types of motions;

- **The movement of the earth on its axis is called rotation.**
- **The movement of the earth around the sun is called revolution.**



ROTATION OF THE EARTH

The earth rotates on its axis from west to east. The axis of the earth is an imaginary line which passes through its centre. The axis is not vertical. It is inclined at an angle of 66 one and a half degree with the plane of the earth's orbit. This is known as the inclination of the earth's axis. The inclination is always in the same direction i.e towards the Pole Star.

Every morning, we notice that the sun rises in the east, travels across the sky during the day and finally sets in the west in the evening. This is due to the rotation of the earth.

The earth takes about 24 hours or one day to complete one rotation on its axis. Thus rotation is also called the daily motion of the earth. The circumference of the earth at the equator is about 40,000 km and the earth covers this distance in about 24 hours.

