Year 4 Science: Earth spins and orbits: days, years and the Sun's path

Name: _____ Date: _____

Try these without your notes first, then check the answer key.

Practice

1. How long does Earth take to spin once on its axis?

2. In which direction does the Sun rise?

3. How long does Earth take to travel once around the Sun?

4. What did Galileo see Venus do that gave evidence it goes around the Sun?

5. In New Zealand at midday, which part of the sky is the Sun in?

6. At 9 am the Sun is above the gym roof in the north-east. Which direction will it be in at 3 pm?

Fix the mistake

7. Correct this statement: "The Sun moves across the sky every day."

8. Correct this statement: "A day is how long Earth takes to go around the Sun."

9. Correct this statement: "In New Zealand the midday Sun is straight overhead."

Answer key (for parents and tutors)

1. How long does Earth take to spin once on its axis?
   About 24 hours.
2. In which direction does the Sun rise?
   The east.
3. How long does Earth take to travel once around the Sun?
   About 365 and a quarter days.
4. What did Galileo see Venus do that gave evidence it goes around the Sun?
   Change shape, like the Moon's phases, and change size.
5. In New Zealand at midday, which part of the sky is the Sun in?
   The north.
6. At 9 am the Sun is above the gym roof in the north-east. Which direction will it be in at 3 pm?
   The north-west, because it moves from east to west.
7. Correct this statement: "The Sun moves across the sky every day."
   The Sun only seems to move; Earth spinning towards the east makes it look that way.
8. Correct this statement: "A day is how long Earth takes to go around the Sun."
   A day is one spin, about 24 hours; a year is one orbit, about 365 and a quarter days.
9. Correct this statement: "In New Zealand the midday Sun is straight overhead."
   In New Zealand the midday Sun is in the northern part of the sky, never straight overhead.