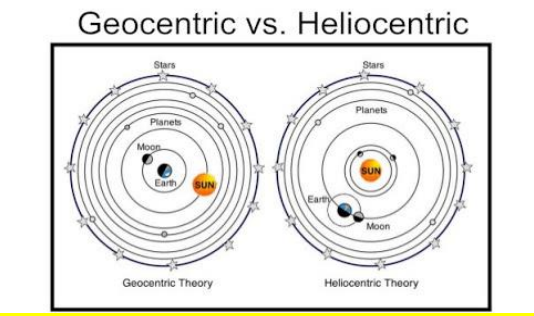
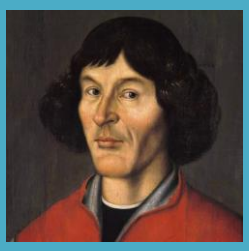
Oak Science Knowledge Organiser

Geocentric Vs the Heliocentric Model of the Solar System



Nicolas Copernicus – the Polish scientist behind the Heliocentric Model of the solar system.



Key Vocabulary

- **Earth** – Our Planet
- **Sun** – The name of Earth's closest star
- **Star** – A fixed luminous point in the night's sky.
- **Solar System** – a group of planets around a star
- **Axis** – a point at which a planet rotates
- **Tilt** – the angle at which a planet rotates
- **Spherical** – a ball-like shape
- **Rotation** – to spin or move around a point
- **Day** – when the sun lights up the planet
- **Night** – the absence of the sun
- **Moon** – a satellite that orbits the Earth
- **Orbit** – to move around an object
- **Celestial** – positioned in the sky

Key Facts

- The Earth, and other planets, orbit the Sun in the solar system. It takes 1 year for the Earth to orbit the sun.
- The Moon orbits the Earth. It takes 27 days to orbit the Earth.
- The Sun, Earth and Moon are approximately spherical
- The Earth rotates and this rotation explains why we have day and night
- Before the Heliocentric model of the solar system, people thought that the Earth was the centre of the solar system (geocentric)