

Earth Dance		Grade 1 - Earth and Space Science	
Lesson Plan		Safety Notes	N/A
<p>Description Students will pretend to be the Earth in a dark room with a lamp as their ‘Sun’. By spinning (rotating on your axis) you create night and day. Walking in a circle around the lamp (revolving around it) creates the year.</p>			
<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lamp without a shade, or camping lantern • A dark room 			
<p>Science Background All of our light and warmth comes from the Sun. Once every 24 hours, the Earth rotates on its axis, meaning it spins around. Half the Earth is always facing the Sun, and on this half, it is daytime. The half that cannot see the Sun is dark, which is nighttime. The full rotation is called a ‘day’. The Earth also revolves around the Sun, going around it in a circular path that takes 365 ¼ days. We call one revolution a ‘year’.</p>			
<p>Activity Procedure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up a lamp or lantern on a chair or table in the middle of a room with curtains or no windows (so you can make it dark). We’ll pretend that lamp is the Sun. Make sure there is room to walk around the ‘Sun’ safely. 2. Turn on the lamp, and turn off the room’s lights. 3. Slowly, so you don’t get dizzy, rotate on your axis-- that means spin around. How often can you see the ‘Sun’? 4. Stop rotating, and revolve around the ‘Sun’ instead: walk around it in a circle. That’s one year. How old are you? Walk around the circle that many times. That’s how many times you’ve gone around the real Sun! 5. Now, combine the two motions: rotate to make night and day, and revolve around the ‘Sun’. Good thing planets can’t get dizzy! 			
<p>Debrief Just like the lamp, the Sun is always there. When it’s night time and we cannot see the Sun, it’s just lighting up the other side of the planet! Every year we go around the Sun once.</p>			

Handout

Try and answer these questions based on the activity:

1. What does the Earth do to make day and night?
2. How many hours does that take?
3. What does the Earth revolve around each year?
4. How many days does that take?
5. How many times have you been around the Sun so far?

Handout - Answer Sheet

Try and answer these questions based on the activity:

1. What does the Earth do to make day and night?
It rotates on its axis. OR It spins around
2. How many hours does that take?
24
3. What does the Earth revolve around each year?
The sun
4. How many days does that take?
365 $\frac{1}{4}$
5. How many times have you been around the Sun so far?
Answer is how old they are.