

What Makes Day and Night? 5th Grade

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References: ORC (<http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=9571>)

Benchmarks:

- ES-1: Describe how night and day are caused by the earth's rotation
- ES-2: Explain that Earth is one of several planets to orbit the sun, and that the moon orbits Earth

Objectives:

Describe how night and day are caused by the Earth's rotation.

Materials

- Globe
- Flashlight
- Sticker
- 3 x 5 cards

Initial Observation/Demonstration:

I will ask for suggestions on what causes day and night. We will also discuss the rotation and orbits of planets around the sun. Students will hypothesize about what causes day and night as well as why the sun rises in the east and sets in the west.

Initial Model:

The Earth orbits the sun. The sun rises in the east and sets in the west (why??)

Procedure:

1. Put the sticker on the globe to indicate where you live.
2. Place the globe on a table, then turn the lights off.
3. Have a student shine the flashlight on the globe where the sticker is.
4. Ask students if it is day or night where the sticker is located.
5. Turn the globe counterclockwise until the sticker is away from you.
6. Shine the light on the other side. Students will notice the sticker is now on the dark side, which represents night time.

There is also a second part to this experiment in which the students will learn how the Earth, sun and moon travel in relation to each other in space.

1. Divide the class into groups of three.
2. Give each group three cards and have them write "Sun", "Moon", and "Earth", on the cards. Students can also draw a picture of the word they wrote.
3. Take the class outside or to a large open area.