

Day and Night: Ravi and the Sun That Never Sleeps

Read the story aloud together, then try the activities.

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

Every evening, Ravi sat on the balcony and watched the Sun slip down behind the hills, turning the sky orange and pink. "Goodnight, Sun," he would say. One evening he asked his mother, "Amma, where does the Sun go to sleep?" Amma smiled. "That's a good question. Let's find out after dinner."

After dinner, Ravi's cousin Maya video-called from Canada. Ravi was in his pyjamas, ready for bed — but behind Maya the sky was bright blue, and she was eating cereal. "Good morning!" said Maya. Ravi stared. "How can it be morning for you," he asked, "when it's night for me?"

Amma fetched a torch and an orange. She stuck a tiny paper flag into the orange. "The orange is the Earth," she said, "and this flag is our home." She switched off the lights and switched on the torch. "The torch is the Sun." The side of the orange facing the torch glowed bright. The far side was dark.

"The bright side has day," said Amma. "The dark side has night." Then, very slowly, she began to turn the orange. Ravi watched the little flag move across the bright side, reach the edge and slide into the dark. "The Earth is always spinning, like a top," said Amma, "only much more slowly. One whole turn takes about 24 hours — one day and one night."

"So the Sun doesn't go to sleep?" asked Ravi. "Never," said Amma. "The Sun keeps shining all the time. When our side of the Earth turns away from it, we get night — and Maya's side, on the other side of the world, turns into the light and gets morning." She kept turning, and Ravi's flag came back round into the light from the other edge. "Sunrise!" Ravi shouted.

"The Earth spins towards the east," said Amma, "so the Sun seems to rise in the east in the morning and set in the west in the evening. It looks like the Sun is moving, but really, we are." Ravi waved at the screen. "Good morning, Maya!" "Good night, Ravi!" Then he looked out of the window at the dark sky. "Goodnight, Sun," he whispered. "See you when we turn around."

1. Match each word to its meaning

Write the letter next to each word.

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|------------------|--|
| 1. Rotate _____ | A. the time when our side of the Earth faces away from the Sun. |
| 2. Day _____ | B. when our side of the Earth turns into the sunlight in the morning. |
| 3. Night _____ | C. when our side of the Earth turns away from the sunlight in the evening. |
| 4. Sunrise _____ | D. to spin or turn round. The Earth rotates once about every 24 hours. |
| 5. Sunset _____ | E. the time when our side of the Earth faces the Sun. |

2. Complete Amma's explanation.

The Earth _____ round once about every _____ hours. The side facing the _____ has day, and the side facing away has _____.

Word bank: 24 · Sun · night · spins

3. Answer the questions

1. Where did Ravi think the Sun went at night?

2. Why was it morning for Maya when it was night for Ravi?

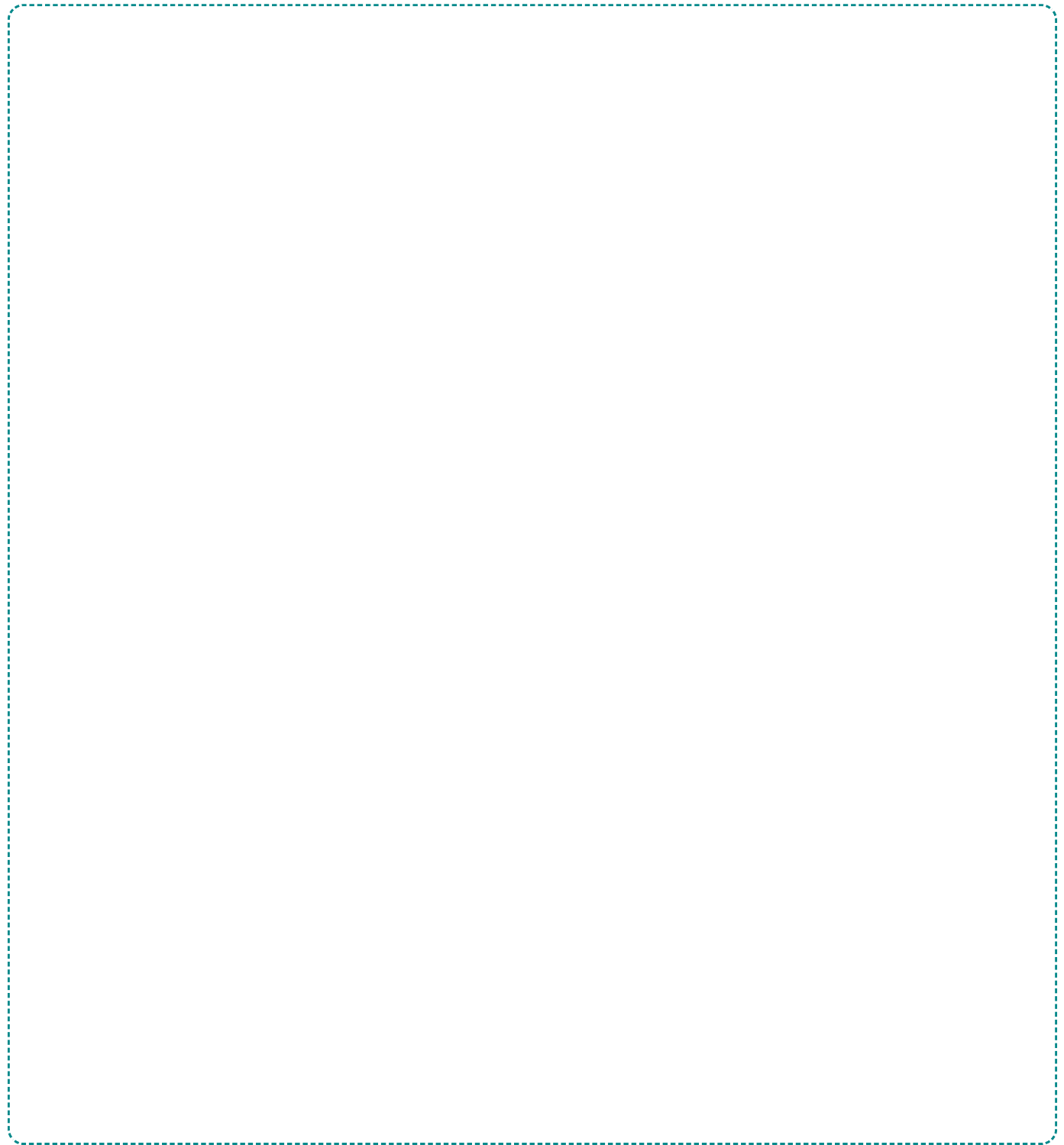
3. In Amma's experiment, what were the torch and the orange?

4. How long does the Earth take to spin round once?

5. Does the Sun really move across the sky?

4. Draw and label

Draw the Sun and the Earth. Colour the day side yellow and the night side dark blue. Mark where you live.



Answer key (for teachers and parents)

On its own page so you can leave it out when printing for children.

1. 1-D 2-E 3-A 4-B 5-C

2. spins, 24, Sun, night

3.1 He thought it went to sleep behind the hills.

3.2 They live on different sides of the Earth; Maya's side was facing the Sun.

3.3 The torch was the Sun and the orange was the Earth.

3.4 About 24 hours — one day and one night.

3.5 No — it looks as if it moves because the Earth is spinning.