Earth’s Rotation

The Earth's rotation causes night and day. The Earth rotates once every 24 hours, and it revolves once every 365 days around the sun. The Earth moves at a speed of about 1000 miles per hour, as it rotates on a vertical axis that is tilted about 23.5 degrees to the one side. Explaining Earth's rotation to students is often challenging, since it is hard for students to understand how the Earth could be rotating so fast, yet no one can feel it move. Read more: <http://www.ehow.com/how_8571682_teach-children-earths-rotation.html#ixzz2XAN4RJD6>

Things You'll Need

Sticker

Globe

Flashlight

1. Put a sticker on the globe near the city you and your students live.
2. Turn off the classroom lights and turn on the flashlight.
3. Point the flashlight toward the globe a few inches to the left of the sticker.
4. Rotate the globe slowly counterclockwise, as you tell the students that when the light begins to shine on the sticker, the sun appears to be rising.
5. Continue to rotate the globe very slowly, as you tell the students that daylight continues until the Earth's rotation causes the area where they live to pass the sun's light. At that point, the sun appears to set in one area; however, the sun is not gone because it is just lighting up another part of the Earth.
6. Explain to students that the flashlight and globe demonstration is in very slow motion. Tell them that the Earth actually rotates at 1000 miles per hour.

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