

SAAVAS Topic 4 School to Home Letter

Dear Family Member or Caregiver,

In the Topic “Earth and Space”, students learn about patterns related to Earth’s rotation. The experiences in this topic are:

- Experience 1: Earth’s Rotation
- Experience 2: Patterns and Shadows

First, in Experience 1, they demonstrate how Earth rotates on its axis and explain how this rotation is related to the day–night cycle and the appearance of the sun moving across the sky. Then, in Experience 2, students investigate how the movement of the sun across the sky causes changes in shadow positions and shape.

The main content TEKS covered in this topic is:

- 5.9: Demonstrate that Earth rotates on its axis once approximately every 24 hours and explain how that causes the day–night cycle and the appearance of the Sun moving across the sky, resulting in changes in shadow positions and shapes.

And the main SEPS and Recurring Themes and Concepts TEKS are:

- 5.1E: Collect observations and measurements as evidence.
- 5.1G: Develop and use models to represent phenomena, objects, and processes or design a prototype for a solution to a problem.
- 5.2A: Identify advantages and limitations of models such as their size, scale, properties, and materials.
- 5.5A: Identify and use patterns to explain scientific phenomena or to design solutions.
- 5.5B: Identify and investigate cause-and-effect relationships to explain scientific phenomena or analyze problems.
- 5.5G: Explain how factors or conditions impact stability and change in objects, organisms, and systems.

One of the best ways for students to check on their learning is to explain it to someone else. Ask your student about their class experiences, and ask them to explain the content that they are learning while at school in their own words or, if relevant, in their first language.