

DAY AND NIGHT

Overview:

Using a sphere to represent the earth and a flashlight to represent the sun, students model the earth's rotation to determine how we get day and night.

Supplies:

- styrofoam ball, globe, baseball, basketball (represents the earth)
- sticker (represents our location on earth)
- flashlight (represents the Sun)

Procedure:

1. Students are placed in groups.
2. The room is darkened.
3. One student shines the flashlight (representing the Sun's light) on the ball (which represents the earth) which is held by another student with a sticker representing our location facing the "sun". Our location is in "sunlight" and it is day.
4. The student holding the "earth" rotates and faces away from the sun. The sticker, representing our location, is not receiving sunlight and it is night.
5. Students draw a diagram of this activity and summarize their findings.

Objective:

To be able to explain how the Earth's rotation causes the cycle of day and night.