

1. Which of the following best explains why the Sun appears to move across the sky every day?

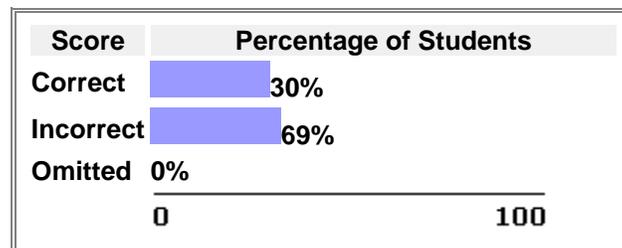
- A) The Sun rotates on its axis.
- B) Earth rotates on its axis.
- C) The Sun orbits around Earth.
- D) Earth orbits around the Sun.

Question 1

Key

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2005 National Performance Results



Note:

- These results are for public and nonpublic school students.
- Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

The Fields of Science: *Earth & Space Sciences* (Sub content classification: *Earth in Space*)
Knowing and Doing Science : *Conceptual Understanding*

The Fields of Science

Earth & Space Sciences

This question measures basic knowledge and understanding of the following:

Earth in Space

- setting of the Earth in the solar system;
- setting and evolution of the solar system in the universe (not in grade 4);
- tools and technology that are used to gather information about space;
- apparent daily motions of the Sun, the Moon, the planets, and the stars;
- rotation of the Earth about its axis, and the Earth's revolution around the Sun;
- tilt of the Earth's axis that produces seasonal variations in climate; and
- earth as a unique member of the solar system that may be approximated in other galaxies in the universe, and that evolved at least 4.5 billion years ago.

Knowing and Doing Science

Conceptual Understanding

Conceptual understanding includes the body of scientific knowledge that students draw upon when conducting a scientific investigation or engaging in practical reasoning. Essential scientific concepts involve a variety of information, including facts and events the student learns from both science instruction and experiences with natural environment; and scientific concepts, principles, laws, and theories that scientists use to explain and predict observations of the natural world.