Earth’s Orbit

1. What is the shape of Earth’s orbit around the sun?

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2. How does this orbital shape affect Earth’s position in relation to the sun?

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3. During which phase of its orbit would Earth’s average temperature tend to be cooler?

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4. When Earth is at its aphelion, how much further is it from the sun compared with the distance during its perihelion?

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5. Would you estimate the distance across the ellipse perpendicular to the aphelion and perihelion to be greater or less than 152 million km? Explain your answer.

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Earth’s Orbit

Perfect circle

Sun

Earth at perihelion

147,000,000 km

152,000,000 km

Earth at aphelion

Ellipse of Earth’s orbit

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