

## Vocabulary: Comparing Earth and Venus



### Vocabulary

- Angular velocity – the rate at which a body rotates or *revolves* through a given angle.
  - The symbol for angular velocity is the Greek letter omega ( $\omega$ ).
  - Angular velocity is measured in radians per second or degrees per second.
  - Angular velocity is equal to the angle ( $\theta$ ) divided by time ( $t$ ):  $\omega = \theta / t$ .
- Orbit – the path of one body around another body in space, such as the path of Earth around the Sun.
- Period – the amount of time it takes for an object to complete one full orbit.
- Revolve – to move around another object.
  - The path most celestial bodies follow as they revolve around another celestial body is called an orbit. Most orbits are elliptical in shape.
- Rotation – the spinning of an object around an axis.
- Sidereal day – the period of time it takes for a planet (or other celestial body) to complete one full rotation.
- Solar day – the time required for a planet (or other celestial body) to return to the same orientation relative to the Sun.
  - The solar day can be measured from one midnight to the next, or from one noon to the next.
  - On Earth, a solar day is about 4 minutes longer than a sidereal day. On Venus, a solar day is much shorter than a sidereal day.
- Year – the period of time for a planet to complete one full revolution around the Sun.
  - On Earth, 1 year is equal to approximately 365.24 days.

