**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 (*ω*).
	+ Angular velocity is measured in radians per second or degrees per second.
	+ Angular velocity is equal to the angle (*θ*) divided by time (*t*): *ω* = *θ* / *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.