Materials list

Ideas for where to acquire materials for modeling in your classroom:

- Small globes of the earth (1 set of 10 per classroom)

Useful in explaining the earth's tilt and rotation, allowing pairs of students to work with a globe.
http://www.amazon.com/Medium-Globe-Pencil-Sharpener-Pieces
http://www.amazon.com/Bazic-Globe-Sharpener-Inches-1902-72

- Dylite Balls (24 per classroom)

These represent the moon. Dylite balls are better than Styrofoam because they are more reflective. Students will need a pen or pencil on which to put the ball.
http://www.plasteelcorp.com/foamshapes/smoothfoam_styrofoam/10038.html

- Lamp (1 per classroom)

The lamp shade should be taken off and used as the sun. We like to use a yellow "bug light" bulb to mimic the sun, but a white bulb may be better for producing the phases of the moon.
http://www.bulborama.com/store/cart.php?m=product_detail&p=859

- Stars (1 package of about 25 stars)

The students can put these stars around the classroom for the third celestial motion lesson where students learn that the earth's rotation causes the stars to rise and set.
http://www.staples.com/Post-it-Star-Shaped-Die-Cut-Memo-Cube-Each

Links list

Ideas for additional materials and resources:

- Worlds of the Solar System

Make a scale model of the sizes of planets in the Solar System (The Solar System to Scale handout is from this activity)
http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/

- Kinesthetic SkyTime

Use kinesthetic strategies to teach students about the seasons.
http://www.spacescience.org/education/extra/kinesthetic_astronomy/index.html

- Singing Science Records

The students we worked with in 3rd grade LOVED these songs!
http://www.acme.com/jef/singing_science/

- The Private Universe

The classic video showing how prevalent misconceptions are in astronomy, even among Harvard graduates!
http://www.learner.org/resources/series28.html

- Stellarium

You can download this free computer-based planetarium program and use it in your classroom lessons or to help you understand what we can see from earth!
http://www.stellarium.org