

THE SOLAR SYSTEM



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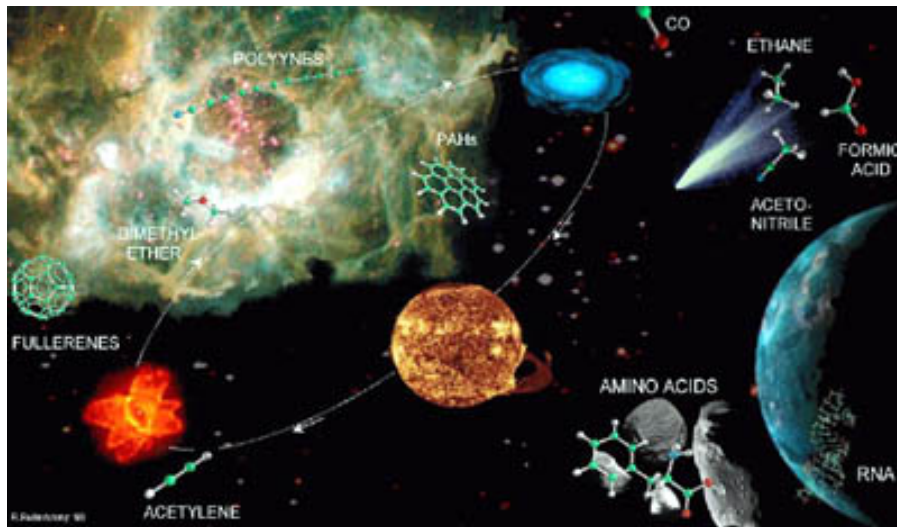
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What is the Solar System?

The solar system is an exciting place that was formed over 4.6 billion years ago! It is made up of all the things that orbit the sun.

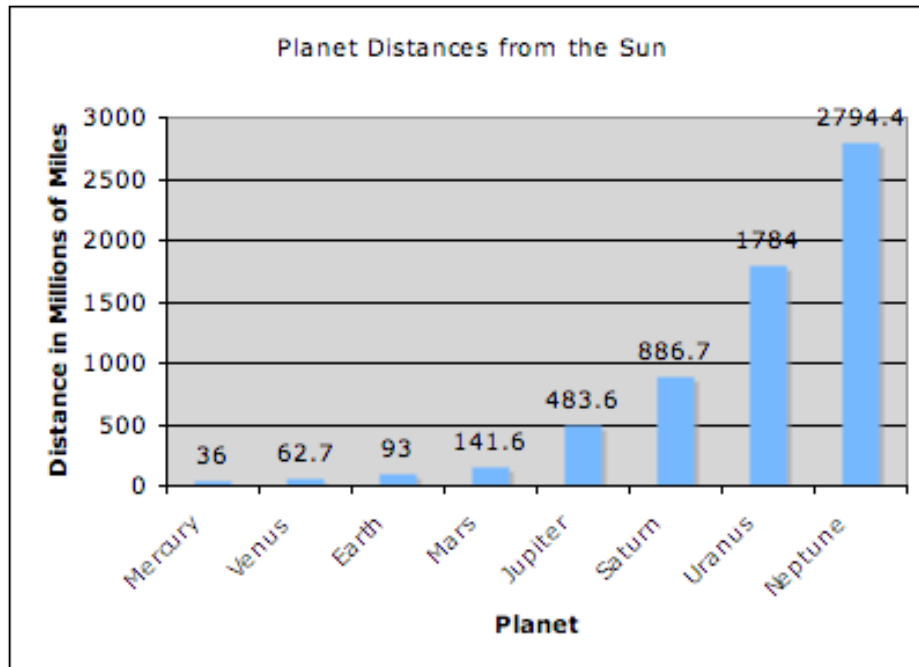


Some things that make up the solar system include planets, comets, belts, asteroids, meteoroids, and moons.



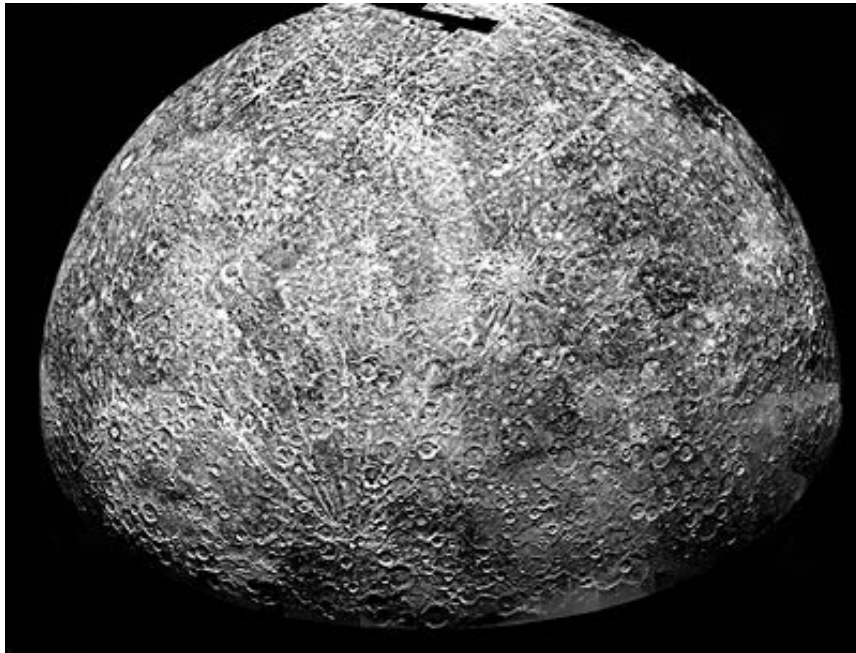
Planets

There are eight planets in our solar system. These planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.



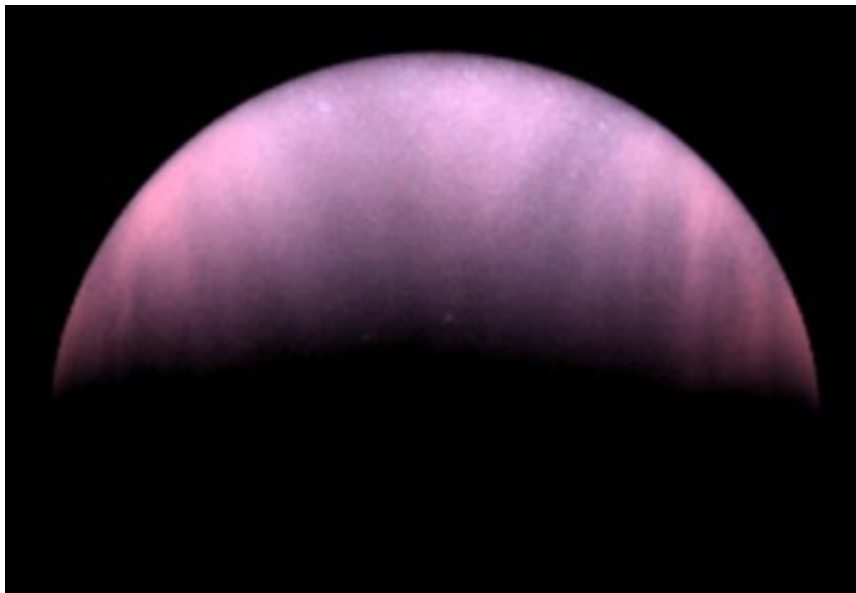
Mercury

Mercury is the first planet from the sun. It is a small, rocky world. Mercury is a lot like the Moon.



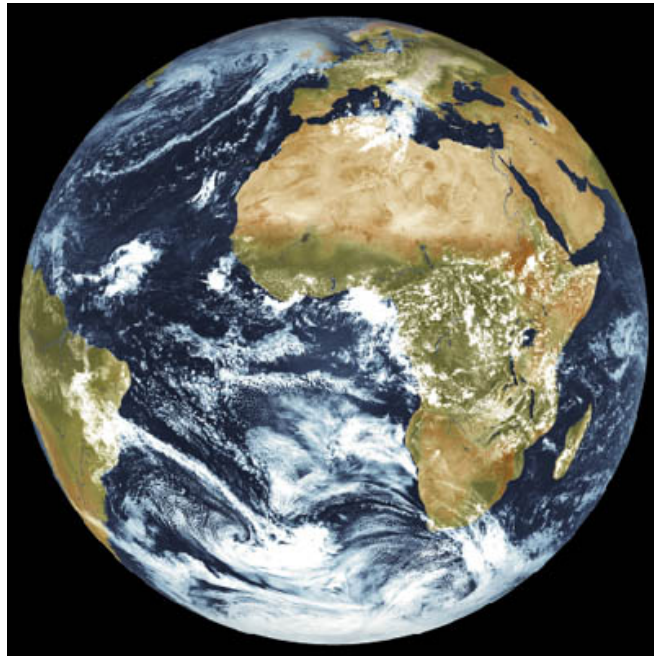
Venus

Venus is the second planet from the Sun. In some ways, Venus is Earth's twin. It is about the same size as Earth and is made of the same rocky materials. It is the brightest object in the night sky apart from the Moon.



Earth

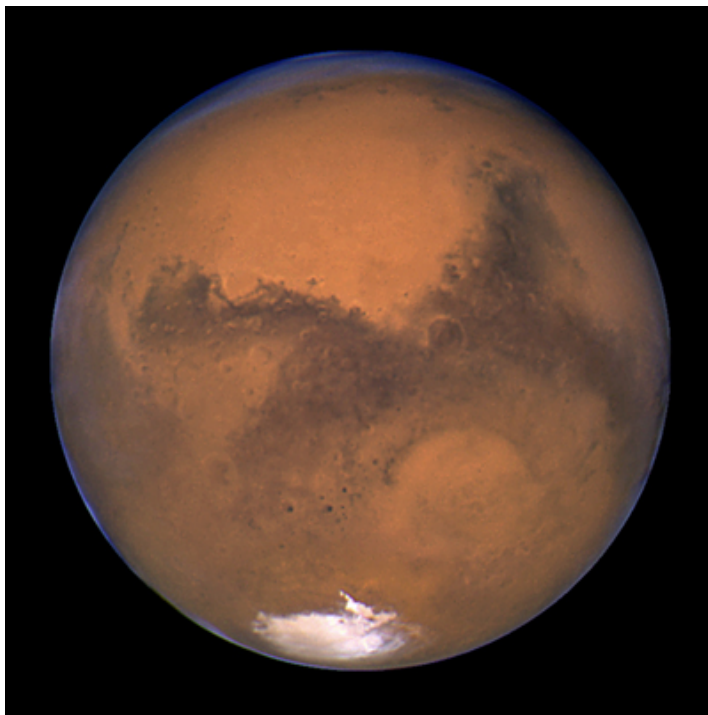
Earth is the third planet from the sun. It takes 365 days to complete one orbit of the Sun. The tilt of the axis that joins the north and south poles means that the Earth has seasons.



Mars

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun. Mars is often called the 'Red Planet' because it appears in the sky as an orange-red star.

Mars is also very cold.



Jupiter

Beyond the asteroid belt is Jupiter, which is the fifth planet from the Sun. Everything about Jupiter is large. It is so big that it could easily swallow all of the other planets. Jupiter is a giant ball of gas, with no solid surface.



Saturn

Saturn is the sixth planet from the Sun. Most of the planet is made up of gas. If you could put all of the planets in a pool of water, Saturn is the only one that would float.



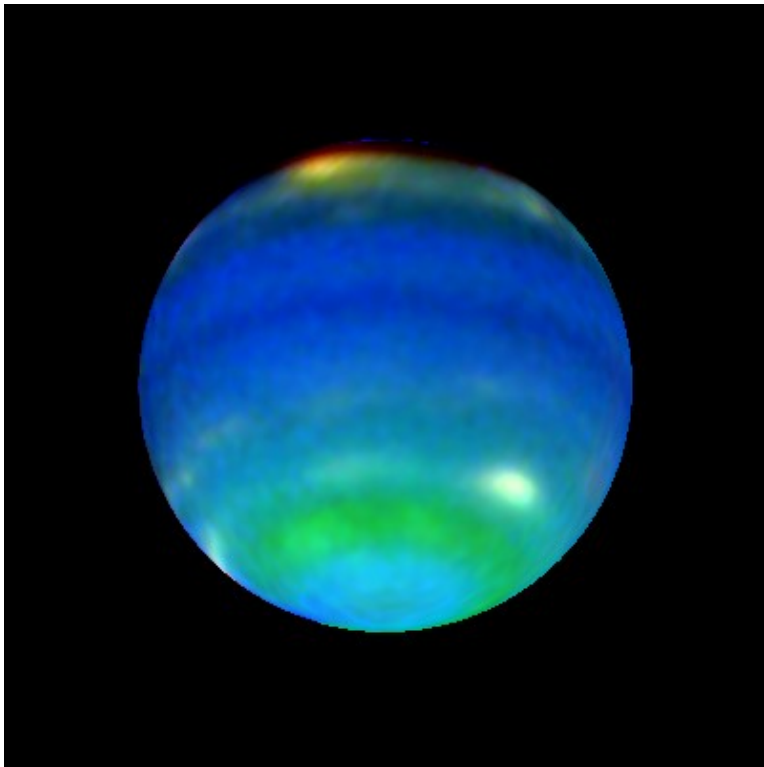
Uranus

Uranus is the seventh planet from the Sun. It is a giant world, the third largest planet in our solar system. Uranus has 27 known moons and has twelve dark, dusty rings.



Neptune

Neptune is the farthest planet from the sun. It is almost an identical twin of Uranus. It has at least five dark, narrow rings and thirteen moons.



Asteroid Belt

There is also an Asteroid belt in the solar system. This band of asteroids sits between the orbits of the planets Jupiter and Mars. It is made up of thousands of objects too small to be considered planets.



These are only a few awesome facts, there is always much more to learn about our remarkable solar system!

What Do You Remember?

1. How old is the solar system?
2. How many planets are there?
3. What is the closest planet to the sun?
4. What is the band between Jupiter and Mars?

Glossary

Comets: They are made out of dust and ice, kind of like a dirty snowball.

Meteoroids: Any small object in Outer Space, such as dust or a rock.

Orbit: The path one object takes around another.

Axis: An imaginary straight line on which an object rotates.

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Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.2

Identify the main topic of a multiparagraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.5

Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.7

Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

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