
Explore Our Solar System

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune!

Eight planets **orbit**, or revolve around, the sun. The planets and the sun are parts of our solar system.



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Which planet is shown here?

The **sun** is a star. It is a giant ball of hot gas.



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Mercury is the closest planet to the sun. It has mountains, cliffs, and plains.

Venus is the hottest planet. It can reach up to 850 degrees. That is hot enough to melt a rocket ship!

Earth is the planet pictured on the cover. It is our home. It is the only planet that has the oxygen and water that people, animals, and plants need to live.

Mars is a cold planet. It is sometimes called the Red Planet because it has reddish soil.

Jupiter is the largest planet. It is made of thick gases. If you tried to land a rocket ship, you would sink into the planet!

Saturn is the second-largest planet. Like Jupiter, it is made mostly of gases. Its rings are made up of rock, ice, and dust.

Uranus is cold and windy. It was the first planet to be discovered with a telescope, in 1781.

Neptune is called the Blue Planet. It is the coldest planet because it is farthest from the sun.

Stay Smart!

Ring Around the Planets

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are gas planets. They all have rings. Only Saturn's rings are thick enough to be seen easily from Earth.

- To remember the order and names of the planets, repeat this silly sentence: My very excellent mother just served us nachos.