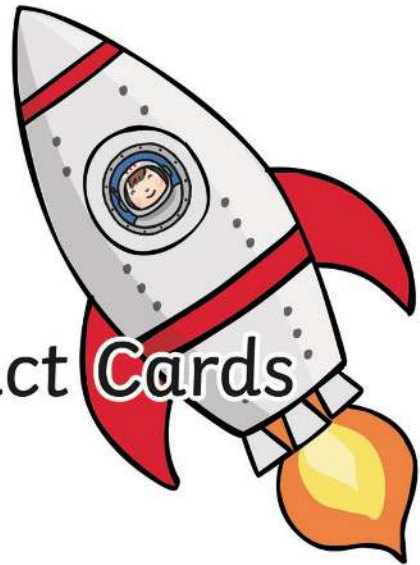


Space

Discovery Sack Fact Cards



The Sun

The Sun is a huge star.
The Sun is not solid; it is a
huge ball of hot, burning gas.
It provides the Earth
with energy.
Without the Sun there could be
no life on Earth.

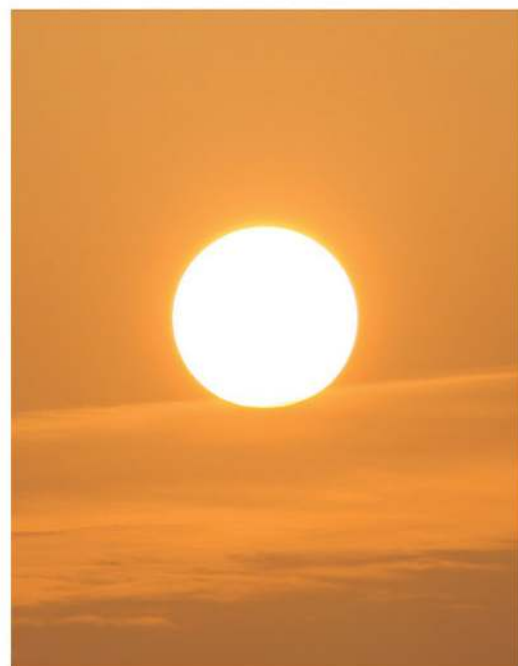


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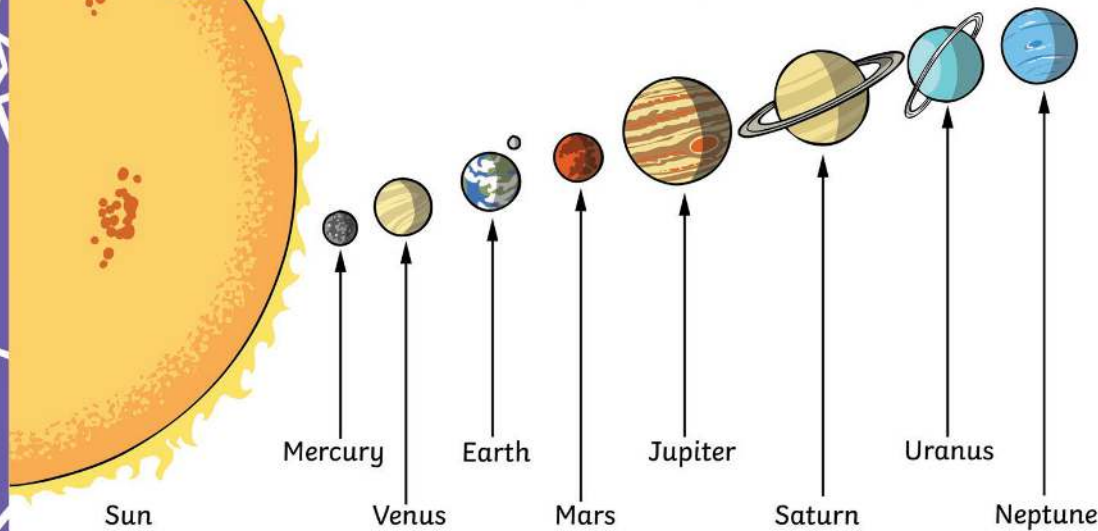
The Solar System

Our Solar System is made up of 8 planets.

These planets orbit the Sun.

The Solar System also consists of moons, comets, asteroids, dust and gas.

The Solar System is held together by an invisible force called gravity.



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Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun.

It is also the smallest planet in the Solar System.

Mercury is a dry, rocky planet and its surface is covered in craters. These were made when meteors and comets crashed into the planet.



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Venus

Venus is the second planet from the Sun.

It is about the same size as Earth.

The surface of Venus is hidden by hot, poisonous gases.

These gases are very thick and stop the heat from escaping. This makes Venus the hottest planet in the Solar System.



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Earth

Earth is the only planet where life is known to exist. This is because it has both water and air.

Most of the surface of the Earth is covered by water.

The Earth has one moon.

The Earth is about 5 billion years old!

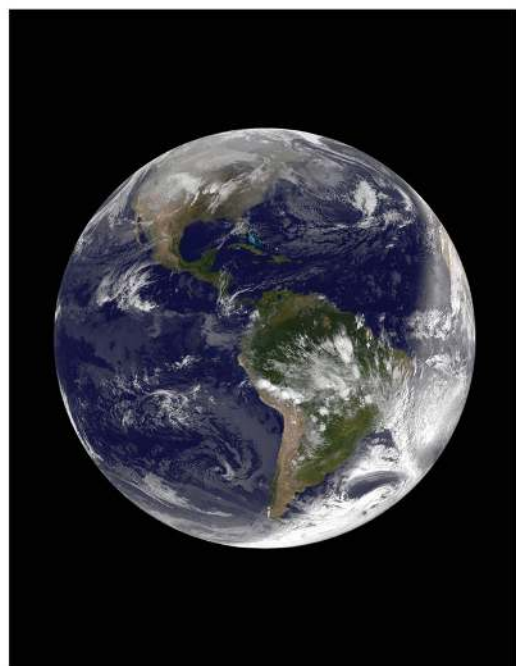


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Mars

Mars is sometimes called 'The Red Planet' because of its red soil.

Mars is about half the size of Earth.

Mars has two moons.

The air on Mars is poisonous.

Mars can be very windy and is sometimes covered by giant dust storms.

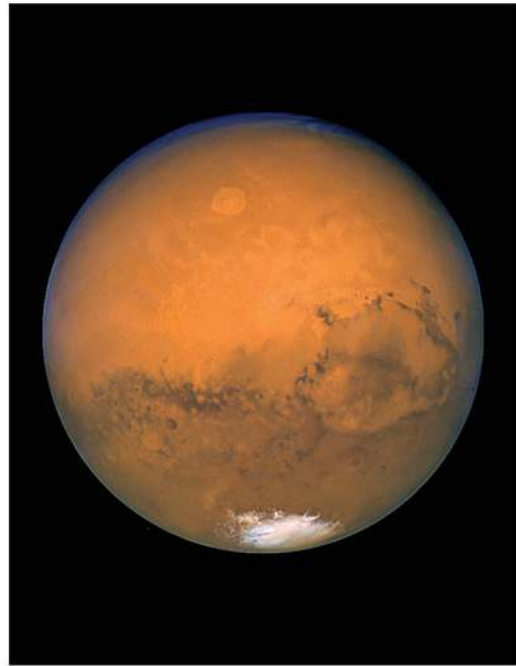


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Jupiter

Jupiter is the largest planet in the Solar System. It is bigger than all of the other planets put together.

Jupiter is a giant ball of gas, with 50 moons.

A day on Jupiter only lasts for about 10 hours, as the planet spins around so quickly.

Jupiter is very stormy.



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Saturn

Saturn is similar to Jupiter in lots of ways.

It is made up mainly of gas and doesn't have a solid surface.

It has more than 60 moons.

Saturn has 7 rings. These rings are made of rocks and ice.



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Uranus

The surface of Uranus looks smooth but it is not solid, as it is made of gas.

Uranus is a blue-green colour.

Uranus rotates on its side. This makes the different seasons last for more than 20 years.



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Neptune

Neptune is the furthest planet from the Sun.

It is so far away that it takes 165 years to orbit the Sun.

Neptune is the windiest planet in the Solar System.

It has got 13 moons. The largest one is called Triton and is very cold.



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Dwarf Planets

There are lots of dwarf planets in the Solar System.

The most famous is Pluto. It used to be counted as the ninth planet in the Solar System but scientists decided it was too small to be a planet.

Other dwarf planets are Ceres, Eris, Haumea and Makemake.



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Asteroids

Asteroids are large lumps of rock or metal which move around the Sun. They are often found in groups such as in the Asteroid Belt.



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Comets

Comets are like huge snowballs of frozen gases, rock and dust. The comet's tail is made when it gets close to the Sun and begins to melt.

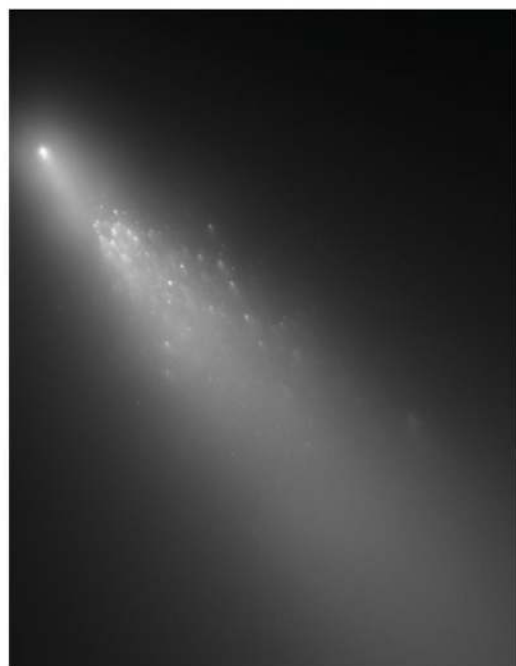


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Meteors and Meteorites

When small pieces of rock and metal hit the Earth's atmosphere they get very hot and glow. This flash of light is called a meteor.

They are sometimes called shooting stars.

If the rock or metal hits the ground, it is called a meteorite. Most of the craters on the Moon were left by big meteorites that crashed into its surface.



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