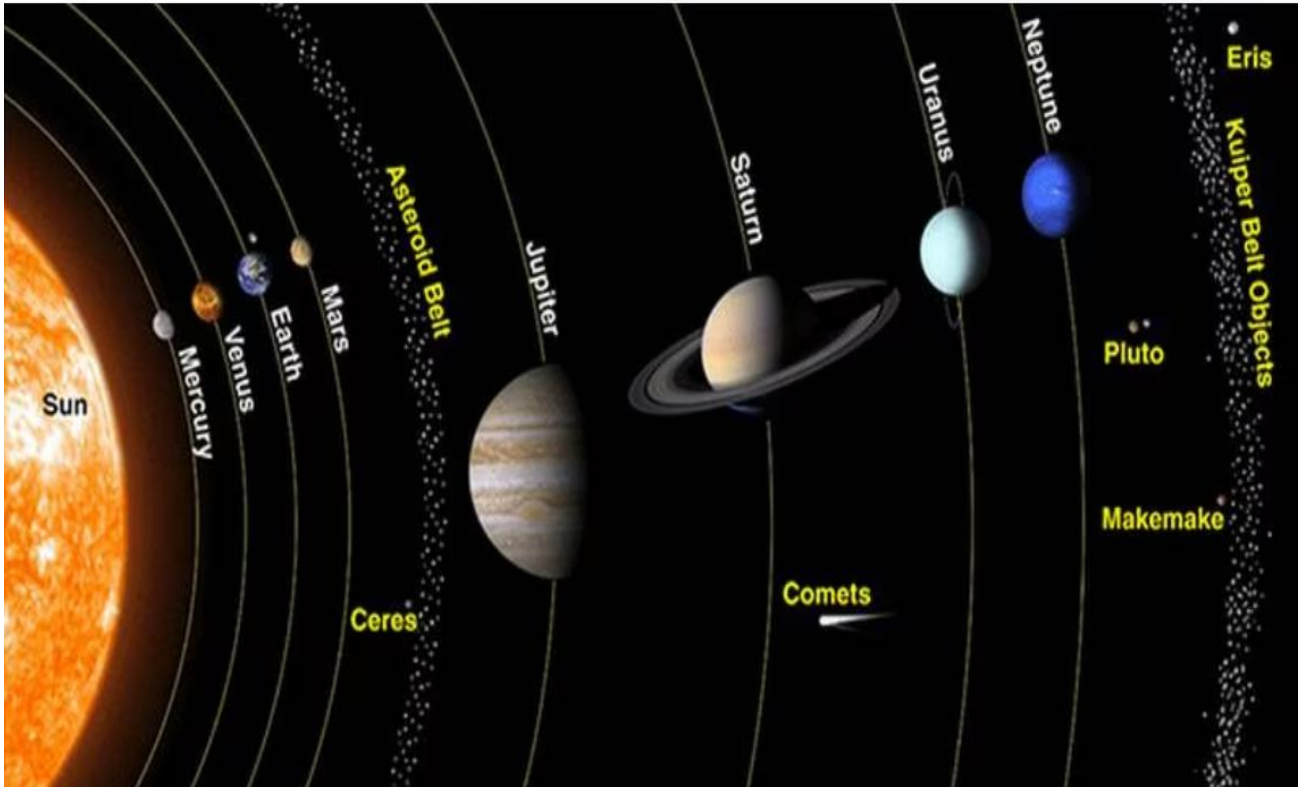


THE SOLAR SYSTEM



Our solar system consists of our star, the Sun, and everything bound to it by gravity – the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune; dwarf planets such as Pluto; dozens of moons; and millions of asteroids, comets, and meteoroids. Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, the red planet, are called 'terrestrial planets'. They are mostly made of rock and metal. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are called 'gas giants'. They are mostly composed of gas and they have rings. The smallest planet is Mercury and the biggest is Jupiter. Neptune is the coldest and Venus is the hottest planet. Farther away from the Sun than Neptune orbit a collection of small, icy bodies, called the Kuiper belt. It's very similar to the asteroid belt. Moons travel around planets. Earth has got just one moon, but there are at least 150 moons in our solar system. Jupiter and Saturn are the planets with the most - 53 confirmed moons each! Mercury and Venus have no moons at all.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM VOCABULARY

MOON	ASTEROID BELT	VENUS	JUPITER	NEPTUNE
SUN	COMETS	EARTH	SATURN	PLUTO
PLANETS	MERCURY	MARS	URANUS	SATELLITE

Use the words above to complete the sentences

- _____ is a collection of small, icy bodies that orbit the sun farther away than Neptune. It's very similar to the _____.
- _____ was long considered our solar system's ninth planet. But after the discovery of similar intriguing worlds deeper in the distant Kuiper Belt, icy _____ was reclassified as a dwarf planet.
- _____ is _____'s only natural satellite. Its diameter is about one-quarter of _____'s making it the fifth largest satellite in the Solar System.
- _____ is red and it's the fourth planet from the _____.
- Fifth in line from the _____, _____ is, by far, the largest planet in the solar system – more than twice as massive as all the other planets combined.
- The _____ is a 4.5 billion-year-old yellow dwarf star – a hot glowing ball of hydrogen and helium – at the center of our solar system. It's about 93 million miles (150 million kilometers) from Earth and it's our solar system's only star. Without the _____'s energy, life as we know it could not exist on our home planet.
- _____ is the third planet from the Sun and the only astronomical object known to harbor life. This is enabled by Earth being a water world, the only one in the Solar System sustaining liquid surface water.
- A _____ is a large, rounded astronomical body. _____ has at least eight planets: _____

Vocabulary Answers

- The **Kuiper Belt** is a collection of small, icy bodies that orbit the sun farther away than Neptune. It's very similar to the **asteroid belt**.
- **Pluto** was long considered our solar system's ninth planet. But after the discovery of similar intriguing worlds deeper in the distant Kuiper Belt, icy **Pluto** was reclassified as a dwarf planet.
- The **Moon** is **Earth's** only natural satellite. Its diameter is about one-quarter of **Earth's** making it the fifth largest satellite in the Solar System.
- **Mars** is red and it's the fourth planet from the **Sun**.
- Fifth in line from the **Sun**, **Jupiter** is, by far, the largest planet in the solar system – more than twice as massive as all the other planets combined.
- The **Sun** is a 4.5 billion-year-old yellow dwarf star – a hot glowing ball of hydrogen and helium – at the center of our solar system. It's about 93 million miles (150 million kilometers) from Earth and it's our solar system's only star. Without the **Sun's** energy, life as we know it could not exist on our home planet.
- **Earth** is the third planet from the Sun and the only astronomical object known to harbor life. This is enabled by **Earth** being a water world, the only one in the Solar System sustaining liquid surface water.
- A **planet** is a large, rounded astronomical body . The Solar System has at least eight **planets**:

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