

Our Solar System Facts

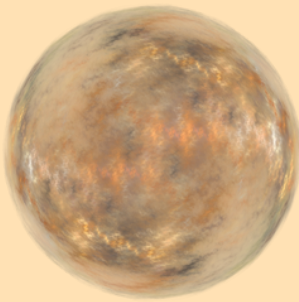


Our solar system has eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

There are five officially recognized dwarf planets in our solar system: Ceres, Pluto, Haumea, Makemake, and Eris.

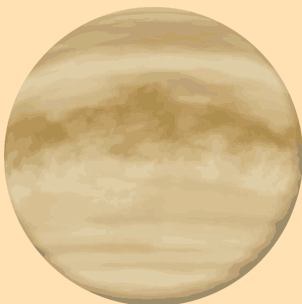
Here are some facts on each planet, followed by a task after to name the planets.

MERCURY



Mercury is the planet nearest to the Sun, and the smallest planet in our solar system. It has a cratered, rocky surface and no moons. It has extreme temperatures, from super hot days to freezing cold nights, because its atmosphere is too thin to trap heat. A year on Mercury is only 88 Earth days long

VENUS



Venus is the second planet from the Sun, and the sixth largest planet. It's the hottest planet in the solar system due to its thick atmosphere made of carbon dioxide.

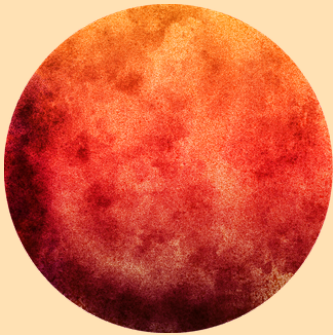
Venus spins backward compared to other planets and has no moons. Venus does have many volcanoes on its rocky surface

EARTH



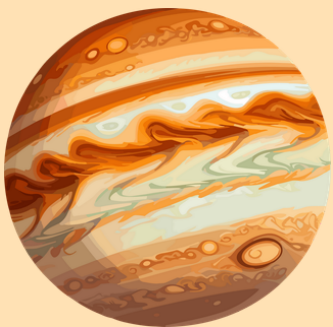
Earth – our home planet – is the third planet from the Sun, and the fifth largest planet. Earth is the only planet known to support life. About 70% of its surface is covered in water. It spins, causing day and night, and orbits the Sun in about 365 days, creating years and seasons. Earth has one moon.

MARS



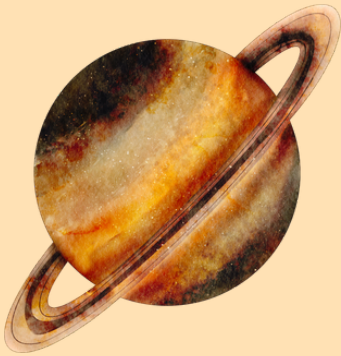
Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun, and the seventh largest planet. Mars is known as the "Red Planet," for its rusty, rocky, and dusty surface. It's a cold and dry world with a thin atmosphere and has two small moons.

JUPITER



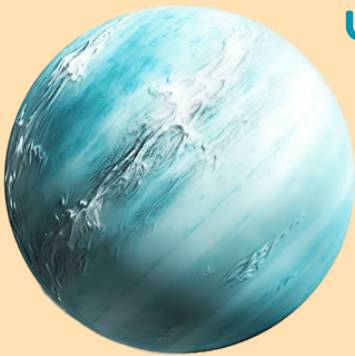
Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun, and the largest planet in our solar system. Jupiter is made mostly of hydrogen and helium with no solid surface. It has a giant, centuries-old storm called the Great Red Spot and faint rings made of dust. Jupiter spins super fast to have short days, and has many moons.

SATURN



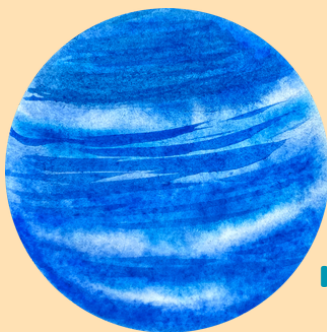
Saturn is the sixth planet from the Sun, the second largest planet in our solar system. Saturn is famous for its beautiful, large rings made of ice and rock. It is the second-largest planet, but surprisingly light enough to float in water. Saturn has short days (just over 10 Earth hours), and a long year (almost 30 Earth years).

URANUS



Uranus is the seventh planet from the Sun, and the third largest planet in our solar system. Uranus is a "ice giant" that is four times wider than Earth and spins on its side, unlike any other planet in our solar system. It is very cold, with an average temperature of about -195°C , and has 27 moons and 13 rings made of ice and rock.

NEPTUNE



Neptune is the eighth and most distant planet in our solar system. It's the fourth largest planet. Neptune is the coldest planet from the Sun, a distant "ice giant" known for its deep blue color from methane gas, powerful winds, and massive storms. It has faint rings, several moons and takes 165 Earth years to orbit the sun.

DWARF PLANETS

Dwarf planets include Pluto, Ceres, Makemake, Haumea, and Eris. Ceres is the only dwarf planet in the inner solar system. It's in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Dwarf planets are similar to the solar system's eight planets but are smaller. Like planets, they are large, roundish objects that orbit the Sun but are not moons.



The Sun

