

Earth

Earth is the third planet from the Sun. It is a rocky planet and the fifth largest in our solar system. It has one moon and no rings.

Earth

Fun Facts:

The word
"Earth" means
"the ground".

The Earth's
atmosphere is
the only one
that is safe to
breathe.

It takes 365
days (1 year)
for Earth to
orbit the Sun
one time.

About 50 miles
above the
Earth's surface
is where the sky
ends and outer
space begins.

Jupiter

Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun. The surface is made of gases and water. It has more than 50 moons and lots of barely visible rings that are made of dust particles.

Jupiter

Fun Facts:

Jupiter was named after a king of the Roman gods.

A huge storm that has been blowing on Jupiter for hundreds of years is called "The Great Red Spot".

It would take a little over a year for a spacecraft to travel from Earth to Jupiter.

At night with binoculars you can see Jupiter's four biggest moons: Europa, Io, Callisto, and Ganymede.

Mars

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun. It is a rocky planet, but much colder than Earth. It has two moons and no rings.

Mars

Fun Facts:

Mars was named after a Roman god of war.

Mars nickname is "The Red Planet" because it is covered in red dust.

The largest known volcano in our solar system is on Mars. It is called Olympus Mons.

Mars Rovers (special vehicles that were sent to Mars) take pictures and send information back to scientists.

Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun. It is a rocky planet that orbits the Sun faster than any other. It has no moons and no rings.

Mercury

Fun Facts:

Mercury was named after a messenger for the Roman gods.

People could never live on a planet like Mercury because the days are too hot and the nights are too cold for anyone to live there.

The surface of Mercury is covered with craters (holes caused by large objects crashing into it). Some people think Mercury looks like Swiss cheese!

It would take about six years to travel from Earth to Mercury in a spacecraft.

Our Moon

The Moon is a large round rock that orbits the Earth once every 29 days. It is the fifth largest moon in our solar system.

The Moon

Fun Facts:

The moon's nickname is "Luna".

Twelve astronauts have walked on the moon since 1969.

There is no air, water or weather on the moon. Because of this, footprints made by astronauts will stay on the moon for thousands of years.

The moon does not change shape even though it looks like it does. It is always a round ball, but looks different depending on how much sunlight is shining on it.

Neptune

Neptune is the eighth planet from the Sun. It is an icy gas planet that is bright blue because of the methane gas in its atmosphere. It has 13 or 14 moons and lots of rings that are hard to see.

Neptune

Fun Facts:

Neptune was named after the Roman god of the sea.

Winds can blow up to one thousand miles an hour on Neptune.

It takes Neptune 165 years to orbit the sun.
Winters on neptune last for about 40 years!

Neptune has storms that scientists call "The Great Dark Spot" when they appear. They can be seen by a special telescope and can last up to a few years.

planet

A planet is a natural object in space moving around a star that is big enough to have its own gravity.

Pluto

Pluto used to be considered the ninth planet from the Sun. Studies starting in 1977 found several other icy objects similar to Pluto in our solar system, so Pluto was eventually excluded and was reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006.

Saturn

Saturn is the sixth planet from the Sun. It is made of gas and is the second largest planet in our solar system. It has over 50 moons and seven main rings made from icy particles.

Saturn

Fun Facts:

Saturn was named after the Roman god of agriculture.

Saturn is best known for its huge bright rings that are made from ice, rock and dust that orbit the planet.

Some of the particles in Saturn's rings are as small as a speck of dust, while others are as large as mountains.

Saturn's biggest moon, Titan, is bigger than the planet Mercury and is covered in a thick golden haze.

Our Solar System

Our solar system is the system of planets and other objects orbiting our Sun. It consists of eight planets. It has 146 known moons and is located in the Milky Way Galaxy.

Our Solar System

Fun Facts:

Our solar system is about 4.6 billion years old.

Our solar system is estimated to be billions of miles long.

Our solar system moves around our Sun. It is the biggest and strongest object in our solar system.

Gravity keeps everything in our solar system around the Sun from floating away. Each object in the solar system has its own special orbit around our Sun.

Our Sun

The Sun is the only star in our solar system. It is a giant ball of glowing hot gas. It creates all the light and heat for all the planets in our solar system.

Our Sun

Fun Facts:

The Sun's name comes from a word that is over 3,000 years old, "sunne".

The Sun is about 93 trillion miles away from the Earth.

The temperature on the sun is about 10,000° Fahrenheit.

The Sun is so big that more than a million planets the size of the Earth could fit inside it.

Uranus

Uranus is the seventh planet from the Sun. It is an icy gas planet that is blue and green because of the methane gas in its atmosphere. It is the coldest of all of the planets in our solar system. It has over 25 moons and 13 rings.

Uranus

Fun Facts:

Uranus was named after the Greek god of the heavens, Ouranos.

Uranus was the first planet found by telescope in 1781 by astronomer William Herschel.

Uranus' moons are named after characters in old books. Some of the names are Oberon, Ariel and Umbriel.

Scientists think that a huge object crashed into Uranus a long time ago and tipped it onto its side. That is why the rings are not sideways like Saturn's.

Venus

Venus is the second planet from the Sun. It is a rocky planet that spins slowly backwards compared to all the other planets. It has no moons and no rings.

Venus

Fun Facts:

Venus was named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty.

Scientists think that Venus might have more volcanoes than any planet in our solar system.

Venus is the hottest and brightest planet in our solar system and sometimes looks like it glows.

It can sometimes look like the brightest star in the sky even though it is a planet.

Because Venus spins backwards, the sun rises in the west and sets in the east, which is exactly the opposite of Earth.