

Our Solar System

The Night Sky

When you look up into the night sky, you can see the Moon and thousands of tiny twinkling stars. What we see is known as Outer Space. Outer Space is the Sun, the Moon, the planets, the stars and all the empty space between them.

1. What do you see when you look up into the night sky?

Clouds

Birds

Aeroplanes

Outer Space

2. What is Outer Space?

Stars

Stars are giant balls of fiery gas. They look tiny because they are millions of miles away from us. The sun is the nearest star to us.

3. What are stars?

Giant balls of rock.

Giant balls of light.

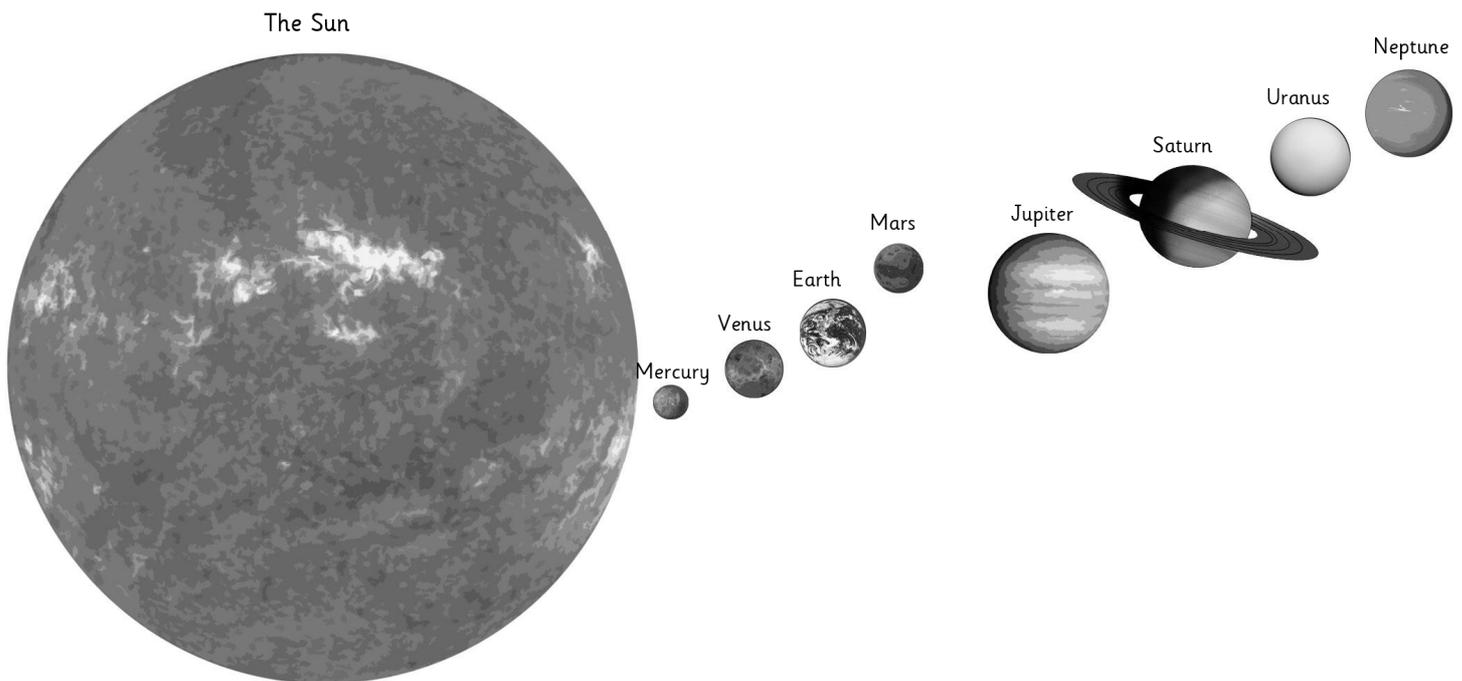
Giant balls of ice.

Giant balls of fiery gas.

4. Why do the stars look tiny?

The Solar System

We live on one of the 8 planets which are part of our Solar System. It is called planet Earth. Our planet - the Earth, is the only planet with living things like plants and animals. This is because it is just the right distance from the sun for life to exist. The other planets are too hot, too cold, or do not have air to breathe.



5. How many planets are in our Solar System?

Three

Seven

Six

Eight

6. What is the name of our planet?

The Outer Planets

The four planets that are furthest from the Sun are known as the outer planets. They are very different from the Earth. They are much larger than the Earth and made mostly of gas.

7. What makes the outer planets different from the Earth? *Tick 2*

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| They are bigger | They are closer to the sun..... |
| They are made mostly of air..... | They are made mostly of gas..... |

The Inner Planets

The planets near the Sun are called the inner planets. They are more like Earth. They are about the same size as the Earth or smaller, and are made mostly of rocks and metals.

10. What are the inner planets mostly made of?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gases | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rocks and metals. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sand | <input type="checkbox"/> | Liquids |

Asteroids, Meteoroids and Comets

Our Solar System isn't just the Sun, the planets and their moons. There are many asteroids, meteoroids and comets flying around in it too.

Asteroids are lumps of rock and metal. Some of them are so big that they even have their own moons!

Meteoroids are smaller pieces of rock. Most are tiny but some are the size of large rocks.

Comets are large balls of ice and dust. They come from the outer edge of the Solar System to circle the Sun.

11. What is our Solar System made up of as well as the Sun, the planets and their moons? *Tick 3*

stars	.....	asteroids	.....	snowballs	.....
rain	.....	meteoroids	.....	comets	.....

12. What are meteoroids?

Our Solar System and the Universe

Although our Solar System seems enormous, it is only a very small part of the Universe. The Universe is everything in space and it is impossible to imagine just how huge it is. Scientists actually think that the Universe is getting bigger all the time!

13. What do scientists think is happening to the Universe.

Can you draw a picture of our Solar System?