

Our Solar System



EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE Tennessee Standard:

Content Standard: 7.0 Earth and Its Place in the Universe

☞ The student will investigate the structure of the universe.

Learning Expectations:

☞ 7.1 Recognize the basic components of the universe.

Our Solar System

Our solar system is made up of:

- ☞ Sun
- ☞ Nine planets
- ☞ Their moons
- ☞ Asteroids
- ☞ Comets



Inner Planets

- ☞ Mercury
- ☞ Venus
- ☞ Earth
- ☞ Mars

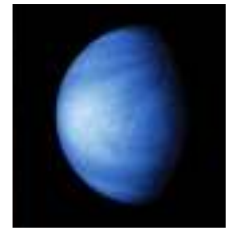


Mercury



- ☼ Planet nearest the sun
- ☼ Second smallest planet
- ☼ Covered with craters
- ☼ Has no moons or rings
- ☼ About size of Earth's moon

Venus



- ☼ Sister planet to Earth
- ☼ Has no moons or rings
- ☼ Hot, thick atmosphere
- ☼ Brightest object in sky besides sun and moon (looks like bright star)
- ☼ Covered with craters, volcanoes, and mountains

Earth



- ☼ Third planet from sun
- ☼ Only planet known to have life and liquid water
- ☼ Atmosphere composed of composed of Nitrogen (78%), Oxygen (21%), and other gases (1%).

Mars



- ☼ Fourth planet from sun
- ☼ Appears as bright reddish color in the night sky
- ☼ Surface features volcanoes and huge dust storms
- ☼ Has 2 moons: Phobos and Deimos

Outer Planets



- ☿ Jupiter
- ♄ Saturn
- ♅ Uranus
- ♆ Neptune

Jupiter



- ☿ Largest planet in solar system
- ♄ Brightest planet in sky
- ♄ 60+ moons, 5 visible from Earth
- ♄ Strong magnetic field
- ♄ Giant red spot
- ♄ Rings have 3 parts: Halo Ring, Main Ring, Gossamer Ring

Saturn



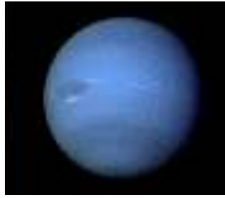
- ♄ 6th planet from sun
- ♄ Beautiful set of rings
- ♄ 31 moons
- ♄ Largest moon, Titan,
- ♄ Easily visible in the night sky
- ♄ Voyager explored Saturn and its rings.

Uranus



- ♄ 7th planet from sun
- ♄ Has a faint ring system
- ♄ 27 known moons
- ♄ Covered with clouds
- ♄ Uranus sits on its side with the north and south poles sticking out the sides.

Neptune



- ¢ 8th planet from sun
- ¢ Discovered through math
- ¢ 7 known moons
- ¢ Triton largest moon
- ¢ Great Dark Spot thought to be a hole, similar to the hole in the ozone layer on Earth

Outermost Planet



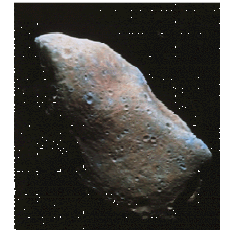
- ¢ Pluto, the outermost planet, is a small solid icy planet is smaller than the Earth's Moon.

Pluto



- ¢ 9th planet from sun (usually)
- ¢ Never visited by spacecraft
- ¢ Orbits very slowly
- ¢ Moon, Charon, is very close to Pluto and about the same size

Asteroids



- ¢ Small bodies
- ¢ Believed to be left over from the beginning of the solar system billions of years ago
- ¢ 100,000 asteroids lie in belt between Mars and Jupiter
- ¢ Largest asteroids have been given names

Comets

- ☼ Small icy bodies
- ☼ Travel past the Sun
- ☼ Give off gas and dust as they



Writing Activity

- ☼ Write a paragraph about the solar system. Include 5 facts covered

Solar System Activities

Solar System Activities

- ☼ [Order the Planets](#)
- ☼ [Fun with Planets](#)
- ☼ [Constellations of the Northern Sky](#)
- ☼ [Planets](#)
- ☼ [Solar System](#)

