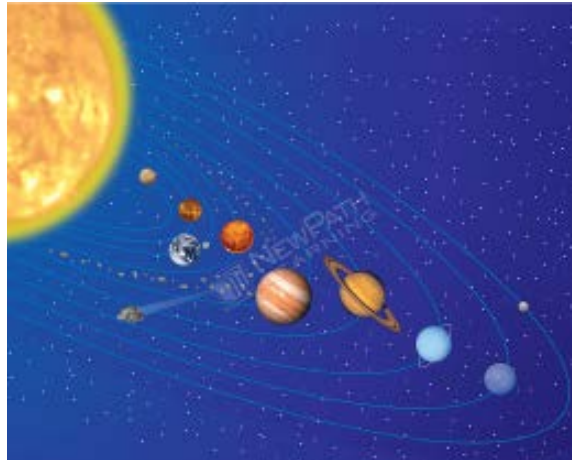


THE SOLAR SYSTEM

The Sun is a gigantic star that is made up of hot gases called **plasma**. The **solar system** includes the Sun, planets, the moons of each planet, as well as other objects that revolve around the Sun.



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Each planet revolves around the Sun in an elliptical orbit. A **planet** is a large celestial body that orbits the Sun.

Planets farther from the Sun have longer orbits than those closer to the Sun.

orbit. A

and the Sun

There are eight known planets that are divided into two groups called inner and outer planets.

The **inner planets** include Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. The **outer planets** include Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and is the second smallest planet in the solar system. Mercury is dry and very hot since it is so close to the Sun.



The second closest planet to the Sun is **Venus**. Venus has no moons and is also very hot and a rocky planet.



Earth is the third planet from the Sun and is where we live. Earth is the only planet in the solar system that can support human life. Earth has water, atmosphere that contains oxygen and carbon dioxide, and just the right temperatures in order for things to live on Earth.



PREVIEW

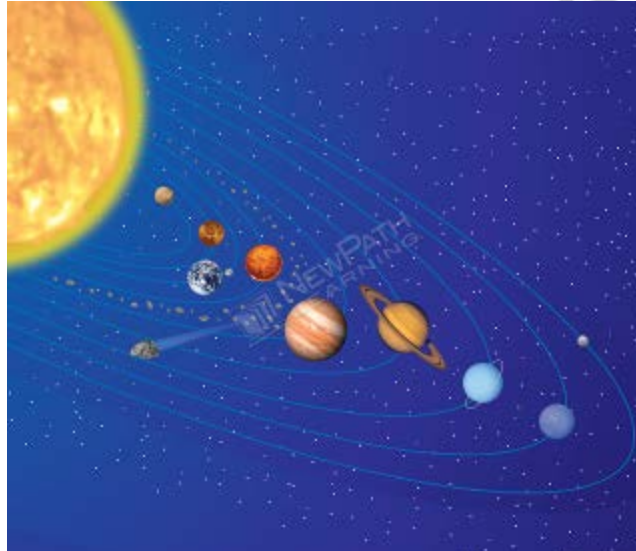
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The fourth planet from the Sun is the planet **Mars**, which is the last of the inner planets. Mars is often known as the “red planet” because of its red and orange surface.



The **asteroid belt** is located between Mars and Jupiter. It contains thousands of asteroids. Asteroids are pieces of rock that orbit around the Sun.



The fifth planet from the Sun is Jupiter. It is the largest planet in our solar system.



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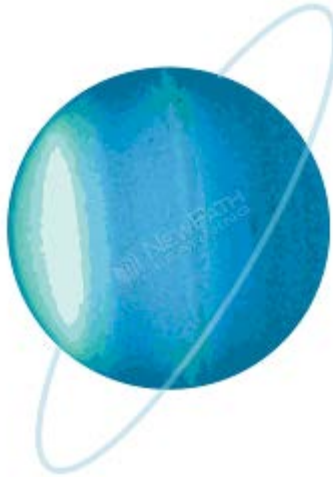
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The sixth planet from the Sun is **Saturn**. Saturn has rings made of ice and rock that circle around the planet.



The seventh planet from the Sun is **Uranus**. Uranus has 26 moons.



The eighth planet from the Sun is **Neptune**. Neptune is made up of different gases.



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