

VOCABULARY

Planets- celestial body moving in an elliptical orbit round a star

Celestial- positioned in the sky, or outer space as observed in astronomy.

Spherical- shaped like a sphere.

Solar System- collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit around the sun, together with smaller bodies in the form of asteroids, meteoroids, and comets.

Rotates- move or cause to move in a circle round an axis or centre.

Galaxy- a system of millions or billions of stars, together with gas and dust, held together by gravitational attraction.

Hemisphere- half of the Earth, usually divided into Northern and Southern.

Orbit- curved path of celestial object or spacecraft round a star, planet or moon.

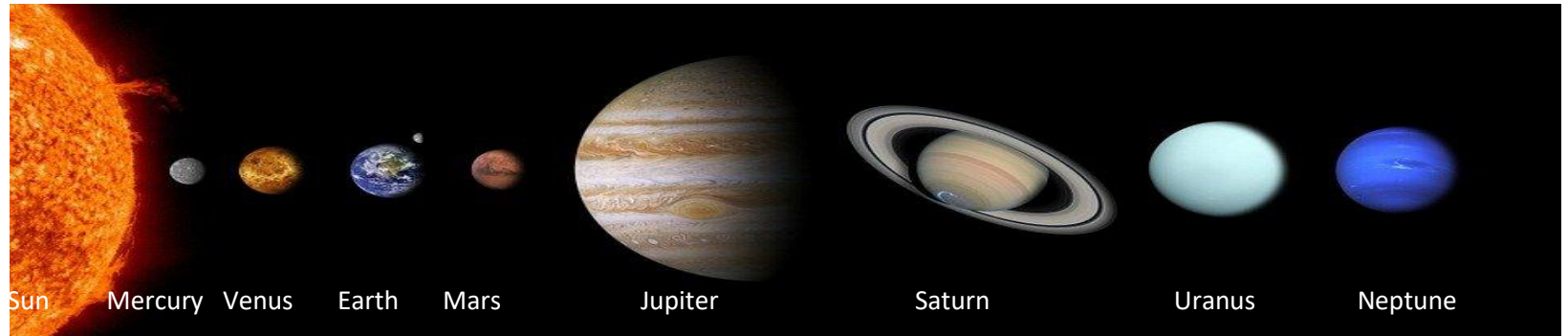
Lunar- determined by or resembling the moon.

revolve- move in a circle on a central axis.

Rocky planets- Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars

Gas Giants- Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

Pluto is no longer classed as a planet due to its size.



Planet Sizes

- Mercury – 1,516mi (2,440km) radius; about 1/3 the size of Earth
- Venus – 3,760mi (6,052km) radius; only slightly smaller than Earth
- Earth – 3,959mi (6,371km) radius
- Mars – 2,106mi (3,390km) radius; about half the size of Earth
- Jupiter – 43,441mi (69,911km) radius; 11x Earth's size
- Saturn – 36,184mi (58,232km) radius; 9x larger than Earth
- Uranus – 15,759mi (25,362km) radius; 4x Earth's size
- Neptune – 15,299mi (24,622km) radius; only slightly smaller than Uranus

Facts

- One million Earths could fit inside the sun- and the sun is considered an average-size star.
- Comets are leftovers from the creation of our Solar System 4.5 billion years ago- they consist of sand, ice and carbon dioxide.
- There are more stars in the universe than grains of sand on all the beaches on Earth. That's at least a billion trillion.
- The sunset on Mars appears blue.

Skills I am learning ...

- I can identify and classify planets.
- I can raise questions and ask questions and suggest reasons for similarities and differences.
- I can identify and classify planets.
- I can use measurement to represent planets in a model.
- I can observe changes over time.
- I can record my work using scientific diagrams and labels when representing the Moon phases.
- I can use research and secondary sources to find out about the Moon.
- I can use a model to discuss, communicate and justify scientific ideas using scientific vocabulary.
- I can look for patterns in how much day light each place gets in relation to where the country is located.
- I can present my results in a variety of ways to answer a question.
- I can plan my own fair test and control variables.
- I can conduct a fair test where variables are identified and controlled.