

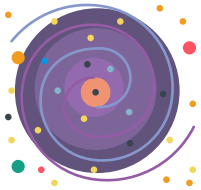


Our Solar System and the Universe

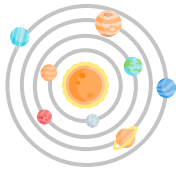


The Universe

The **Universe** contains EVERYTHING that exists, which includes:



Galaxy



Solar System



Star



Planets



Moon



Asteroid



Artificial Satellite

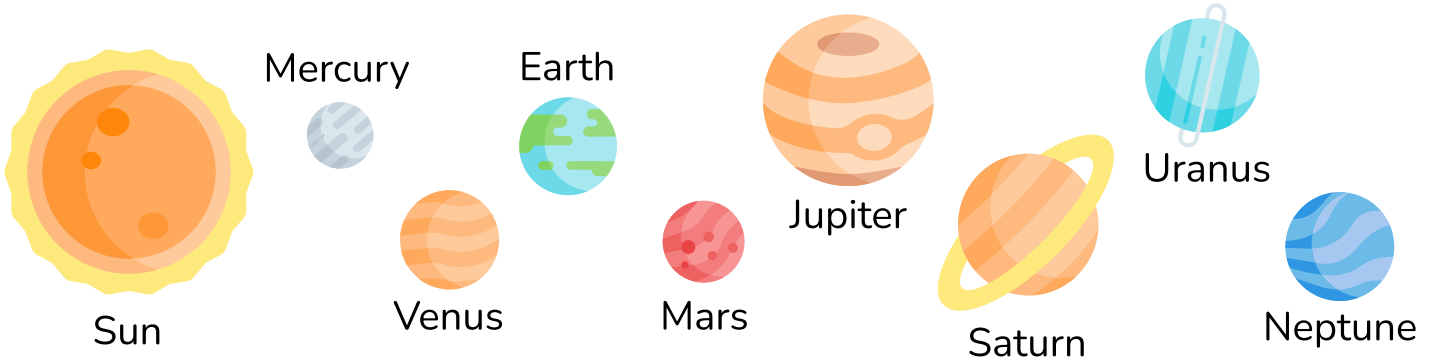
Largest ←————→ Smallest

Our galaxy is called the **Milky Way** and it is shaped like a spiral. It contains billions of stars, including the star at the centre of our solar system, the Sun.



Our Solar System

Within our solar system, there are eight planets that orbit the Sun. These are:



We can remember the order of the planets from the Sun with this handy mnemonic:

My Very Eager Mother Just Served Us Nachos

Mercury

Venus

Earth

Mars

Jupiter

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune

Look out!

There used to be nine planets in our solar system but in 2006, Pluto was reclassified as a **dwarf planet** because it was too small to be a planet!

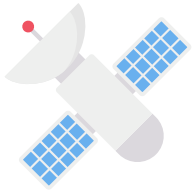




Satellites

There are two types of **satellite**: artificial and natural. A satellite is a moon, planet or machine that orbits (goes around) a sun or planet.

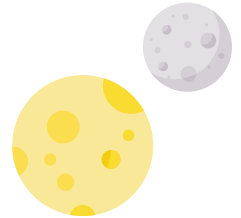
Artificial Satellites



Artificial satellites are sent up into space by humans. They perform tasks such as predicting the weather!

Natural satellites

Natural satellites are also called **moons**. They travel around planets in nearly circular paths called **orbits**.



Asteroids

Asteroids are big lumps of rock that float through space. They can vary in size and shape, but most are smaller than our moon.

Did you know?

There are millions of asteroids between Mars and Jupiter in a group known as the Main Asteroid Belt!



Check out my asteroid belt!