

SCIENCE · Y2-Y6

Our Solar System

Eight planets, one star

Eight Planets

In order from the Sun

- 1. Mercury — closest, smallest, no atmosphere
- 2. Venus — hottest, thick toxic atmosphere
- 3. Earth — only known life, water in 3 states
- 4. Mars — red, ice caps, thin atmosphere
- 5. Jupiter — largest, Great Red Spot storm
- 6. Saturn — rings of ice and rock
- 7. Uranus — tilted on its side, blue-green
- 8. Neptune — windiest, deepest blue, furthest
- Mnemonic: My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Noodles
- Pluto: reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006

Key Facts

About our solar system

- The Sun is a STAR — a giant ball of burning gas.
- All 8 planets ORBIT the Sun (they go around it).



- Earth takes 365.25 days to orbit the Sun (= 1 year).
- Earth ROTATES once every 24 hours (= 1 day).
- There are 4 ROCKY planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars).
- There are 4 GAS GIANTS (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune).
- The asteroid belt sits between Mars and Jupiter.
- The Milky Way is our galaxy — the Sun is one of billions of stars in it.

