

The universe and the Solar System



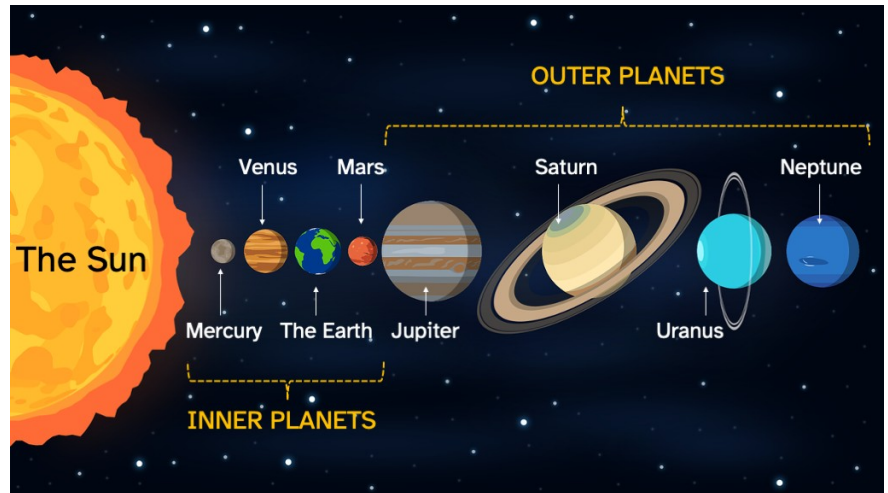
The Universe and the Solar System

THE UNIVERSE

The universe started **14 billion years ago** with a **Big Bang**. The universe was very small, and then it began to expand. Now, the universe is still getting bigger.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM

The **Solar System** is in the **Milky Way**, our galaxy. It includes the Sun, the planets, and other celestial bodies that orbit it. **The Sun** is the closest star to Earth. It gives light and heat to the Earth.



PLANETS AND MOONS

There are **eight planets** in the Solar System.

- The **inner planets** are **Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars**. They are close to the Sun. They are small and have solid rock surfaces.
- The **outer planets** are **Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune**. They are far from the Sun. They are much bigger than the inner planets. They are made of gases.

The planets go around the Sun and also rotate on their own axis.

Most planets have **moons**. Moons are celestial bodies that don't emit their own light.

OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES

- **Asteroids** are big and small rocks that go around the Sun.
- **Meteorites** are asteroids that come near Earth. They usually burn when they enter the Earth's atmosphere.
- **Comets** are made of ice and rock. They go around the Sun. When they get close to the Sun, the ice melts and make a long light "tail".



