

The Planets and Solar System



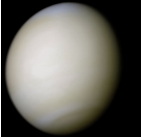
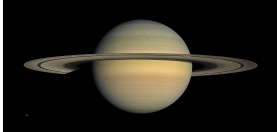

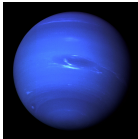
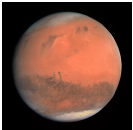
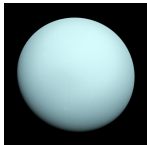

(Grades 1 - 8)

Solar System Facts:

- There are eight planets in our solar system. There is a ninth called Pluto but this has been classified as a dwarf planet. Not a full sized planet.
- The eight planets in order starting closest to the sun are:

Mercury – Venus – Earth – Mars – Jupiter - Saturn – Uranus – Neptune

- Pluto, the dwarf planet is furthest out
- The largest planet is Jupiter and the smallest planet is Mercury

	Mercury		Jupiter
	Venus		Saturn
	Earth		Uranus
	Mars		Neptune
	Pluto – Dwarf Planet		

The Planets and Solar System

(Grades 9 - 12)

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Mercury – Is visible to the naked eye but only during limited times before sunrise or after sunset. This is because it is so close to the sun. It is considered to be a rocky planet. It is just slightly larger than Earth's moon and it orbits around the Sun once every 88 days.

Venus : Is visible to the naked eye. It is a rocky planet covered in a thick atmosphere of gases making it the hottest planet in our solar system.

Earth: Is visible with the naked eye. It is a rocky planet.

Mars: Is visible with the naked eye. It is a rocky planet.

Jupiter Is visible with the naked eye. It is a gas giant planet and the largest planet in our solar system.

Saturn Is visible with the naked eye. It is a gas giant planet. It is most famous for its rings.

Uranus: You need a telescope to see it. It was discovered by the astronomer William Herschel in 1781. It is an ice giant planet.

Neptune You need a telescope to see it. It was predicted to exist mathematically because of its effect on Uranus. But it wasn't actually seen until the astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle discovered it in 1846. It is an ice giant planet.

Pluto (Dwarf Planet) You need a telescope to see it. It is not large enough to be a planet so it is now categorized as a dwarf planet. It was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930.