

# The planets in the solar system

Our solar system features eight planets, seen in this artist's diagram. Although there is some debate within the science community as to whether Pluto should be classified as a Planet or a dwarf planet, the International Astronomical Union has decided on the term plutoid as a name for dwarf planets like Pluto.

The solar system is also known as a planetary system. Since the 1990s scientists have found many planetary systems beyond our solar system. In these systems, one or more planets orbit a star--just as the eight planets in our solar system orbit the Sun. These planets are called extrasolar planets.

Here is the text of the IAU's Resolution B5: Definition of a Planet in the Solar System: Contemporary observations are changing our understanding of planetary systems, and it is important that our nomenclature for objects reflect our current understanding. This applies, in particular, to the designation "planets" ...

Pluto, a dwarf planet, was classified as one of the solar system planets when it was first discovered by Clyde Tombaugh. However, it is now considered to be one of the largest known members of the Kuiper Belt -- a collection of icy bodies on the outer fringes of the solar system. Pluto was demoted from its planetary status in 2006 when a body ...

There are lots of tricks for remembering the order of the planets. This illustration shows them in order from the sun. WP/CC BY-SA 3.0/Wikipedia. Over the past 60 years, humans have begun to explore our solar system in earnest. From the first launches in the late 1950s until today, we've sent probes, orbiters, landers, and even rovers (like NASA's Perseverance Rover ...

Facts about the Planets. Mercury's craters are named after famous artists, musicians and authors.; Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system.; Earth's atmosphere protects us from meteoroids and radiation from the Sun.; There have been more missions to Mars than any other planet.; Jupiter has more than double the mass of all the other planets combined. ...

Most of the mass of the solar system is concentrated in the Sun, with its  $1.99 \times 10^{30}$  grams. Together, all of the planets amount to  $2.7 \times 10^{30}$  grams (i.e., about one-thousandth of the Sun's mass), and Jupiter alone accounts for 71 percent of this amount. The solar system also contains five known objects of intermediate size classified as dwarf planets and a very large ...

A star that hosts planets orbiting around it is called a planetary system, or a stellar system, if more than two stars are present. Our planetary system is called the Solar System, referencing the name of our Sun, and it hosts eight planets.. The eight planets in our Solar System, in order from the Sun, are the four terrestrial planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, and ...

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Order Of The Planets In The Solar System: By the Numbers Distance Of The Planets From The Sun: Planet Distance from the Sun Diameter Mass Important Notes; Mercury: 57,910,000 km (0.387 AU) 4,879 km: 3.3022 x 1023 kg: The closest planet to the Sun The smallest The fastest-spinning: Venus: 108,200,000 km (0.723 AU)

The Definition of a Planet The word goes back to the ancient Greek word plan?t, and it means "wanderer." A more modern definition can be found in the Merriam-Webster dictionary which defines a planet as "any of the large bodies that revolve around the Sun in the solar system." In 2006, the International Astronomical Union [...]

The order and arrangement of the planets and other bodies in our solar system is due to the way the solar system formed. Nearest to the Sun, only rocky material could withstand the heat when the solar system was young. For this reason, the first four planets - Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars - are terrestrial planets.

The planets of the outer solar system are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune (Pluto is now classified as a dwarf planet): The first thing to notice is that the solar system is mostly empty space. The planets are very small compared to the space between them. Even the dots on the diagrams above are too big to be in proper scale with respect to ...

The night sky over New Zealand"s Southern Alps gives a spectacular view of the Milky Way, the galaxy in which our own solar system resides. Mike Mackinven / Getty Images. Our planet Earth is part of a solar system that consists of eight planets orbiting a giant, fiery star we call the sun. For thousands of years, astronomers studying the solar system have noticed ...

Planetary Fact Sheet in U.S. Units. Planetary Fact Sheet - Values compared to Earth. Index of Planetary Fact Sheets - More detailed fact sheets for each planet. Notes on the Fact Sheets - Explanations of the values and headings in the fact sheet. Schoolyard Solar System - Demonstration scale model of the solar system for the classroom

The rest of the Solar System is its eight major planets, five dwarf planets, hundreds of moons, and a large number of comets, asteroids, and other small bodies of rock and ice. The extent of the Solar System is defined by the solar wind -- particles driven by the Sun"s magnetic field -- and gravitational influence.

Solar System Formation. The solar system is located in one of the spiral arms of the Milky Way galaxy. It was born about 4.5 billion years ago when a cloud of interstellar gas and dust collapsed. Most of the material was pulled toward a central point: nearly all of the solar system"s mass--99.8%--is in the Sun.

Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system. If Jupiter was a hollow shell, 1,000 Earths could fit inside. Jupiter also is the oldest planet, forming from the dust and gases left over from the Sun"s formation 4.5 billion years ago. But it has the shortest day in the solar system, taking only 10.5 hours to spin around once on its

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axis.

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