

The Solar System

Overview

The Solar System is a vast and fascinating region of space that includes the Sun and all the celestial bodies that orbit it, including eight planets, their moons, dwarf planets, asteroids, comets, and meteoroids. It formed approximately 4.6 billion years ago from the gravitational collapse of a giant molecular cloud.

The Planets

There are eight major planets in the Solar System:

1. Mercury - the closest planet to the Sun.
2. Venus - similar in size to Earth but with a toxic atmosphere.
3. Earth - the only planet known to support life.
4. Mars - the 'Red Planet' with the largest volcano in the solar system.
5. Jupiter - the largest planet with a giant red storm.
6. Saturn - famous for its beautiful ring system.
7. Uranus - rotates on its side and has a faint ring system.
8. Neptune - known for its deep blue color and strong winds.

Interesting Facts

- The Sun contains more than 99.8% of the total mass of the Solar System.
- Jupiter has 95 known moons, the most of any planet.
- The asteroid belt lies between Mars and Jupiter.
- Pluto, once the ninth planet, is now classified as a dwarf planet.