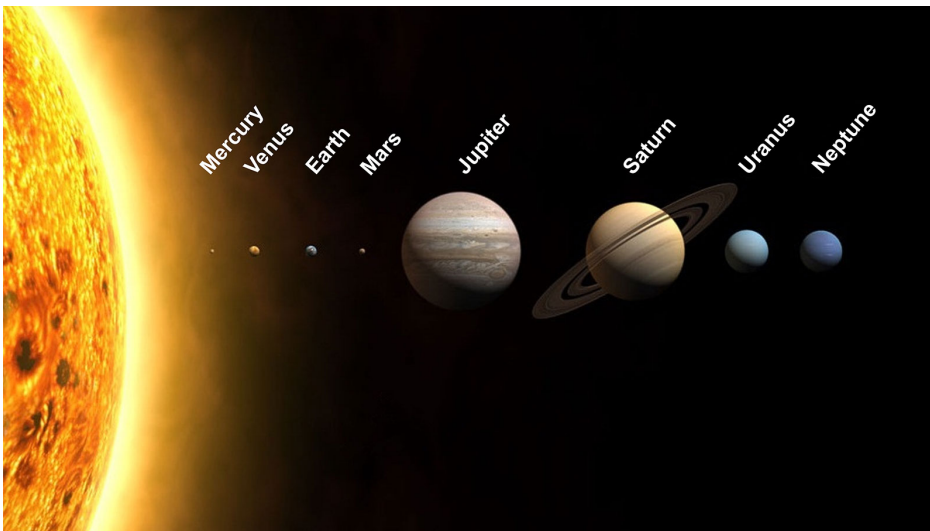


Intro To Solar System

Introduction To The Solar System

Imagine looking up at the night sky and seeing a twinkling sea of stars. It's like an endless cosmic dance, isn't it? But have you ever wondered how our Earth fits into this grand scheme of things? Well, our planet is just a small part of a much bigger picture called the Solar System.



The Sun: The Center of It All

In the middle of our Solar System, there's the Sun—a gigantic ball of glowing gas. It's like a super-sized flashlight that lights up everything around it. The Sun is so big that you could fit about 1.3 million Earths inside it! And guess what? It's the Sun's gravity that keeps all

the planets in their orbits.

The Planets: Eight Different Worlds

There are eight planets in our Solar System, including Earth. Let's start closest to the Sun:

1. Mercury

This planet is the smallest and closest to the Sun. It's scorching hot during the day but freezing cold at night.

2. Venus

Known as Earth's "sister planet," Venus is almost the same size as Earth but is way too hot and has a thick atmosphere that traps heat.

3. Earth

That's us! Earth is unique because it has liquid water, which allows life to exist.

4. Mars

Known as the Red Planet, Mars has huge canyons and extinct volcanoes. Scientists think it may have had water a long time ago.

5. Jupiter

This is the biggest planet in our Solar System. It's mostly made of gas and has a big red spot that is actually a storm.

6. Saturn

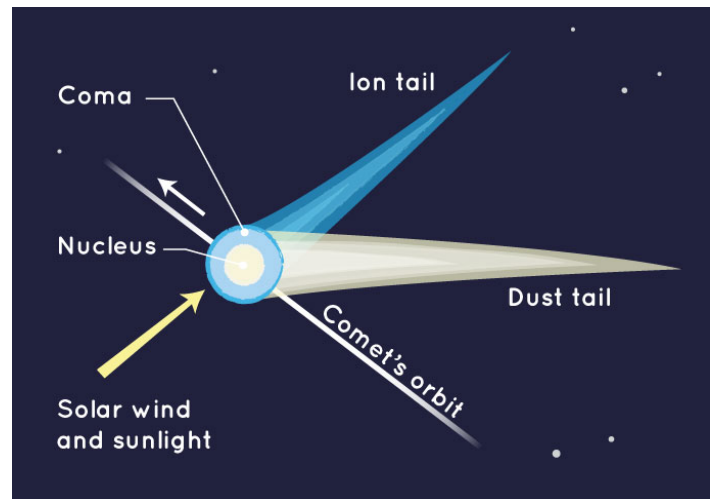
Famous for its stunning rings, Saturn is a gas giant like Jupiter.

7. Uranus

This planet has a weird tilt and rotates on its side. It's also known for its icy-blue color.

8. Neptune

Farthest from the Sun, Neptune is a dark blue planet with super-fast winds.



Other Members of the Family

The Solar System also includes moons, asteroids, comets, and dwarf planets like Pluto. Moons are natural satellites that orbit around planets. For example, Earth has one moon, while Jupiter has 79!



Asteroids are rocky objects that are smaller than planets, and they mostly hang out in a belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Comets are like cosmic snowballs made of ice, rock, and dust. When they come close to the Sun, they create beautiful tails that point away from it.

How Do We Know All This?

Scientists use telescopes to look at planets and other objects in space. They also send spacecraft to explore far-away places. For example, the rover named Perseverance is currently exploring Mars, looking for signs of past life.

Isn't it fascinating to think about how much more there is to discover? Next time you look up at the night sky, remember: you're a part of this incredible universe!

1. What is at the center of our Solar System?
 - A) Earth
 - B) Sun
 - C) Mars
 - D) Moon

2. How many planets are there in our Solar System?
 - A) Seven
 - B) Eight
 - C) Nine
 - D) Ten

3. Which planet is known as the Red Planet?
 - A) Venus
 - B) Mars
 - C) Jupiter
 - D) Saturn

4. What is Jupiter's big red spot?
 - A) A mountain
 - B) A sea
 - C) A storm
 - D) A moon

5. What is Venus's atmosphere like?
- A) Thin and cold
 - B) Thick and hot
 - C) Thin and hot
 - D) Thick and cold
6. What are asteroids?
- A) Cosmic snowballs
 - B) Natural satellites
 - C) Rocky objects
 - D) Gas giants
7. How many moons does Earth have?
- A) One
 - B) Two
 - C) Seventy-nine
 - D) None
8. Which planet rotates on its side?
- A) Saturn
 - B) Uranus
 - C) Neptune
 - D) Mercury
9. Which planet is farthest from the Sun?
- A) Mars
 - B) Jupiter
 - C) Saturn
 - D) Neptune

10. What does Perseverance explore?

- A) Venus
- B) Mars
- C) Jupiter
- D) The Moon

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. B) Sun
 - The passage states that the Sun is in the middle of our Solar System.
2. B) Eight
 - The passage mentions that there are eight planets in our Solar System.
3. B) Mars
 - The passage refers to Mars as the Red Planet.
4. C) A storm
 - The passage says Jupiter's big red spot is actually a storm.
5. B) Thick and hot
 - The passage states that Venus has a thick atmosphere that traps heat.
6. C) Rocky Objects
 - The passage describes asteroids as rocky objects smaller than planets.
7. A) One
 - The passage states that Earth has one moon.
8. B) Uranus
 - The passage says that Uranus has a weird tilt and rotates on its side.
9. D) Neptune
 - The passage states that Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun.
10. B) Mars
 - The passage states that Perseverance is currently exploring Mars.