

## OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

Our **Solar System** is located **in the Milky Way Galaxy**. It consists of **the Sun** , **eight planets** and **their natural satellites, dwarf planets , asteroids, comets and meteorites** **orbiting** the **Sun**. Our solar system **formed about 4.6 billion years ago**.

### THE SUN

The **Sun** is a yellow dwarf **star**. Its **gravity** holds the Solar System together, keeping everything in its **orbit**.

### THE ROCKY PLANETS

**Nearest** the Sun are four **small, rocky planets** - Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.

**Mercury** is the closest planet to the Sun. Mercury is **small** and it has **no atmosphere and no water**.

**Venus** is the second planet from the Sun. It is **very hot** because its atmosphere traps most the heat from the Sun.

**Earth** is special because it is an **ocean** planet ; for this reason it is called the **blue planet**. It is the only planet that supports life.

**Mars** is called the '**Red Planet**' because it as an orange-red star. It is small and **very cold**.

### THE GAS GIANTS AND THE ICE GIANTS

Beyond the orbit of Mars are the four **gas giants** - Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. These planets are much bigger than Earth, and they are **made of hydrogen and helium**.

**Jupiter** is the **giant** of the Solar System. It has got **64 moons**.

**Saturn** is the second largest planet in the Solar System. It has got **18 moons** and **7 rings** made of rock and ice.

**Uranus and Neptune** are the more distant from the Sun. They are **very cold** and they are called **the ice giants**.

**READ THE TEXT AND FILL IN THE TABLE**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Facts and definitions</b>
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	It is the closest planet to the Sun and it is <b>small</b>
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