

Earth

2. Universe

CONCEPT 2

THE SOLAR SYSTEM

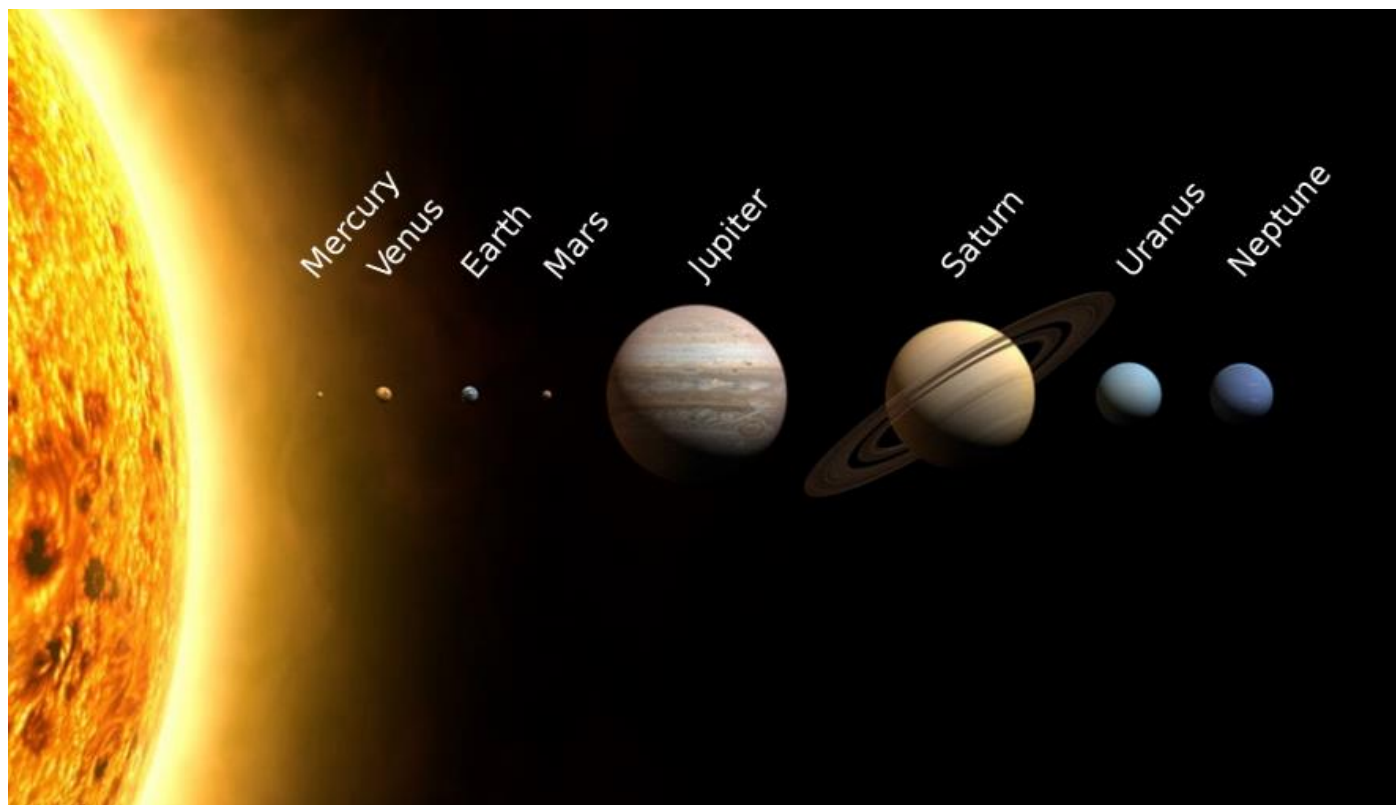
NOTES

The solar system consists of the Sun and planets with smaller objects such as asteroids and comets. All of these objects orbit around the Sun due to the force of gravity acting between all of the objects.

There are 8 planets in our solar system. They are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Mercury is closest to the Sun and Neptune is furthest from the Sun.

A good way to remember the order of the planets is to learn this sentence.

My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Naming



Scientists are constantly discovering new planets and objects orbiting the Sun and further out in the universe. Pluto is another object within our solar system that was once considered the ninth planet. However, in 2006 Scientists decided that Pluto was a dwarf planet and therefore it is now standard to teach students that we have eight planets in our solar system. There are other objects in our solar system such as Ceres (which is considered as a dwarf planet), asteroids and comets.

The Earth has its own gravity, this gravitational force causes objects to orbit the Earth just like the planets orbit the Sun. Scientists have been able to utilise this knowledge and launch artificial satellites into orbit around the Earth. There are currently thousands of satellites orbiting around the Earth which are used for many different reasons. The Earth also has a large natural satellite orbiting around it, this is the Moon.