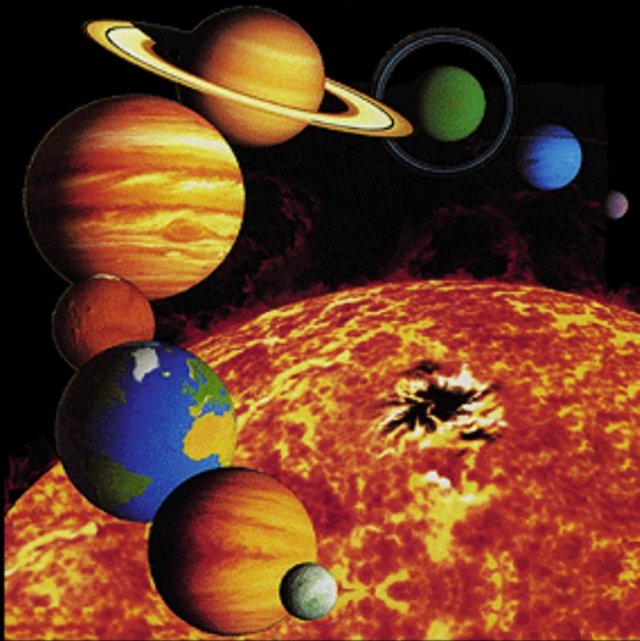


Our solar system consists of the sun and everything that travels around it.

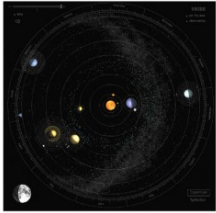


Luminous - means give off its own light. Stars are luminous.

Planets and moons do not emit their own light. They are nonluminous.

We can see them because light from the sun reflects off them.

**FUN NOTE:**  
Everything in the solar system is much closer to earth than the stars.



## How Big is the Solar System?

Earth is part of the solar system, which is the family of planets and other, smaller space objects that move around the sun.

The order of the planets starting with the closest to the sun is as follows:

A way to remember the order

Mercury Smallest in size (4880 km in diameter)

My

Venus - hottest

Very

Earth - has life

Excited

Mars Red planet & 2<sup>nd</sup> smallest in size (6800 km in diameter)

Mother

Jupiter Largest in size (142 000 km in diameter)

Just

Saturn has rings & 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest in size (120 000 km in diameter)

Served

Uranus Coldest

Us

Neptune Known as an Ice Giant

Nachos

[Exploring Our Solar System: Planets and Space for Kids - FreeSchool - YouTube](#)

Planets differ in their size motion and temperatures.

The furthest away from the sun means that it receives the least amount of sunlight and heat

The Solar System had dozens of moons, including the Earth's moon and thousands of asteroids and meteoroids.

Every year or so new moons are discovered for the outer planets.

- 0 Moons for Mercury.
- 0 Moons for Venus.
- 1 Moon of Earth. Luna.
- 2 Moons of Mars. Deimos. Phobos
- 0 Moons for Dwarf Ceres.
- 67 Moons of Jupiter
- 62 Moons of Saturn
- 27 Moons of Uranus
- 14 Moons of Neptune

This has changed over the years due to new discoveries.

The sun is the largest object in our solar system (1 392 000 km in diameter)

The moon is the closest object to the earth. It is 348 500km away from Earth.

The Earth is actually 150 000 000 km away from the sun. Knowing this tells us how big the solar system really is.

Fun fact: It takes 8 min 20 seconds for the light of the sun to reach earth.

Fun note: The average travel time to the moon (providing the moon is your intended destination), using current rocket propulsion is approximately three days. The fastest flight to the moon without stopping was achieved by NASA's New Horizons probe when it passed the moon in just 8 hours 35 minutes while en route to Pluto.

According to NASA, a one-way trip to the Red Planet would take about nine months