Sun

The sun is a massive ball of gas and the largest body in the solar system.

Diameter	863,400 miles (1,390,000 km)
Surface Temperature	10,800° F (6,000° C)
Interior Temperature	27,000,000° F (15,000,000° C)
Rotational Period	25–36 days
Estimated Age	4.5 billion years
Primary Chemical Component	Hydrogen

Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the sun and the smallest in the solar system.

Diameter	3,031 miles (4,880 km)
Natural Satellites	0
Distance from the Sun	35,974,272 miles (57,910,000 km)
Rotational Period	58.65 days
Orbital Period	87.97 days
Surface Temperature	354° F (179° C)
Main Atmospheric Component	Helium

Venus

The second planet from the sun, cloud-covered Venus rotates from east to west.

Diameter	7,518 miles (12,103 km)
Natural Satellites	0
Distance from the Sun	67,214,920 miles (108,200,000 km)
Rotational Period	243.0 days
Orbital Period	224.7 days
Surface Temperature	899° F (482° C)
Main Atmospheric Component	Carbon Dioxide

Earth

The only planet with liquid water on its surface, it is the only planet to support life.

Diameter	7,924 miles (12,756 km)
Natural Satellites	1
Distance from the Sun	92,933,000 miles (149,600,000 km)
Rotational Period	23 hours, 56 mins
Orbital Period	365.2 days
Surface Temperature	354° F (179° C)
Main Atmospheric Component	Nitrogen

Mars

The fourth planet from the sun is a barren, rocky, rusty red world.

Diameter	4,220 miles (6,794 km)
Natural Satellites	2
Distance from the Sun	141,050,000 miles (227,940,000 km)
Rotational Period	24.62 hours
Orbital Period	687 days
Surface Temperature	-81° F (-63° C)
Main Atmospheric Component	Carbon Dioxide

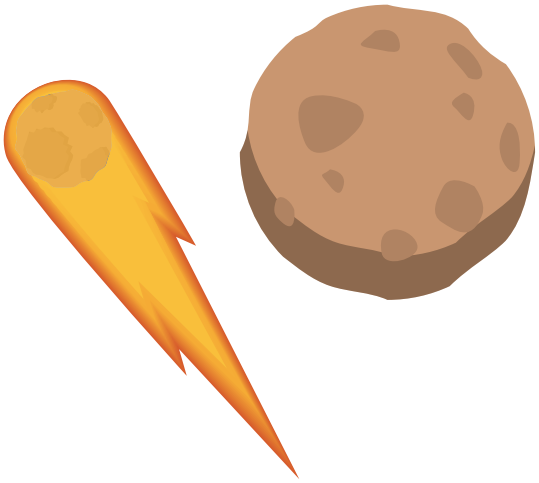
Asteroids and Comets

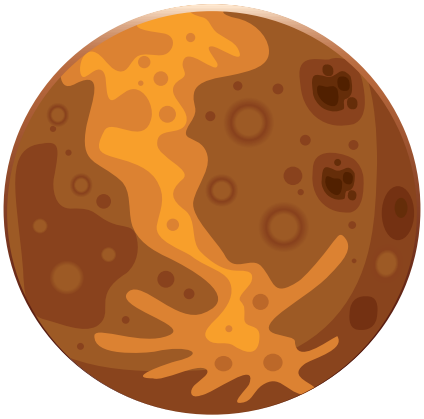
Asteroids are big space rocks left over from when the solar system formed about 4.6 billion years ago. Most asteroids orbit the sun within the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

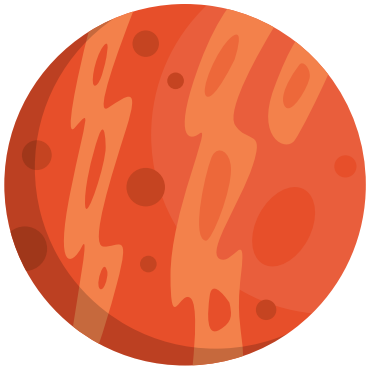
Number of known asteroids: 794,770

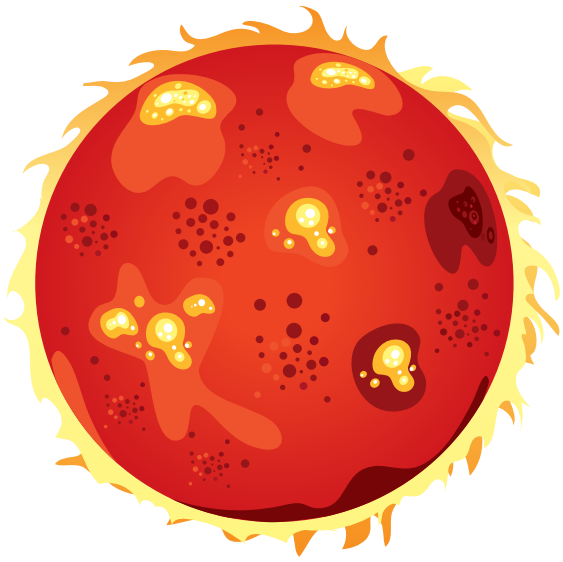
Comets are the oldest, most primitive bodies in the Solar System. They are huge snowballs of frozen gases, rock, and dust that orbit the sun. When close to the sun, a comet heats up, and its dust and gases form a tail that stretches for millions of miles.

Number of known comets: 3,570









Jupiter

Almost twice the size of all of the other planets combined and has a giant red spot.

Diameter	88,823 miles (142,984 km)
Natural Satellites	64 known
Distance from the Sun	482,546,000 miles (778,330,000 km)
Rotational Period	9.84 hours
Orbital Period	4333 days
Cloud Temperature	-185° F (-121° C)
Main Atmospheric Component	Hydrogen

Saturn

Saturn, a gas giant with three main bands of rings, is called the jewel of the solar system.

Diameter	74,565 miles (120,536 km)
Natural Satellites	62
Distance from the Sun	884,740,000 miles (1,429,400,000 km)
Rotational Period	10.25 days
Orbital Period	29.46 years
Cloud Temperature	-193° F (-125° C)
Main Atmospheric Component	Hydrogen

Uranus

The only planet that rotates on its side, Uranus is a featureless blue-green sphere.

Diameter	31,755 miles (51,118 km)
Natural Satellites	27
Distance from the Sun	1,783,487,000miles (2,870,990,000 km)
Rotational Period	17.3 hours
Orbital Period	84 years
Cloud Temperature	-315° F (-193° C)
Main Atmospheric Component	Hydrogen

Neptune

A giant blue sphere with unusual cloud features and a thin, dark system of rings.

Diameter	30,744 miles (49,492 km)
Natural Satellites	13
Distance from the Sun	2,798,116,000miles (4,504,300,000 km)
Rotational Period	15.8 hours
Orbital Period	165 years
Cloud Temperature	-315° F (-193° C)
Main Atmospheric Component	Hydrogen

Pluto

Pluto is officially classified as a dwarf planet and has an oval and tilted orbit.

Diameter	1,473 miles (2,370 km)
Natural Satellites	5
Distance from the Sun	3,673,537,000miles (5,913,520,000 km)
Rotational Period	6.3 days
Orbital Period	248 years
Surface Temperature	-382° F (-230° C)
Main Atmospheric Component	Methane

Moon

Our moon is the 5th largest of the 190+ moons orbiting planets in the solar system.

Diameter	2,160 miles (3,476 km)
Natural Satellites	0
Distance from the Earth	238,800 miles (384,400 km)
Rotational Period	27.32 days
Orbital Period	27.32 days
Surface Temperature	0° F (-17° C)
Main Atmospheric Component	Hydrogen