

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

Names	Facts and definitions
	It is located in The Milky Way Galaxy and it consists of the Sun , eight planets and their natural satellites, dwarf planets , asteroids, comets and meteorites orbiting the Sun.
The Sun	
Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.	They are
	It is the closest planet to the Sun and it is small
Venus	It is
	It is special because it is an ocean planet. It is the only planet that supports life.
Mars	It is
	They are the four gas giants and they are made of hydrogen and helium .
	It is the giant of the Solar System. It has got 64 moons .
	It has got 7 rings made of rock and ice.
Uranus and Neptune	They are