

Planets of the Solar System

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Read these important facts:

- A planet is a celestial body that orbits a star.
- The sun is a star.
- The word solar means 'relating to the sun'.
- The sun is the star at the centre of the solar system.
- The word celestial means 'heavenly' but it also means 'of the sky' or 'of outer space'.
- The word orbit means the path a planet takes to go round a star.
- Gravity is the force that attracts a planet to the star.
- Each planet also has its own gravity.
- Gravity is the force that keeps us on the ground!
- The force of gravity pulls objects towards the ground.
- Scientists tell us that there are eight planets in our solar system.
- We live on the planet Earth.
- The other seven planets in the solar system are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
- Scientists who study space are called astronomers.
- Astronomers used to think that Pluto was a planet.
- The International Astronomical Union decided in 2006 that Pluto is not a planet.
- Pluto is now known as a dwarf planet.
- Another dwarf planet is called Eris.
- Eris is bigger than Pluto.