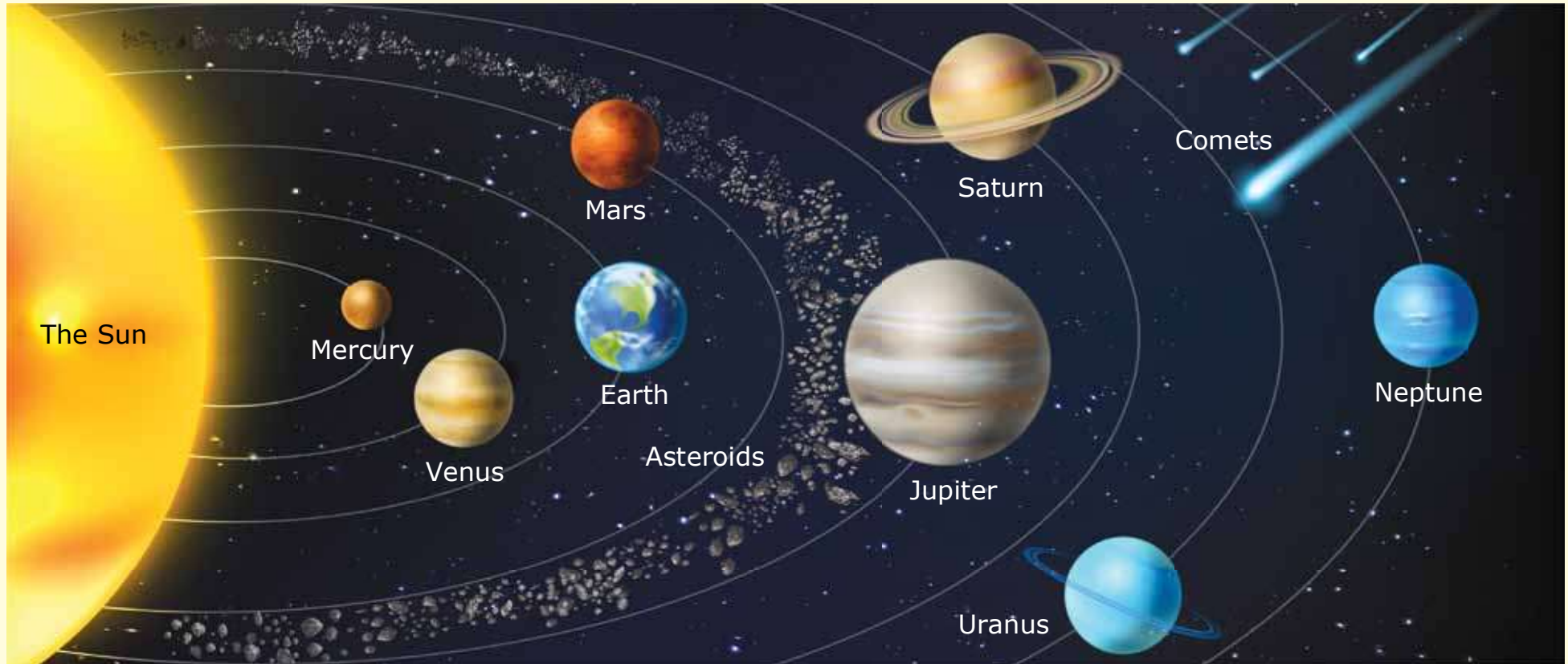


Solar System



Solar system consists of Sun, 8 planets, asteroids, comets, meteorite and meteoroids

Planets in the Solar System

Mercury

- Smallest planet and closest to the Sun.
- Mercury's surface is covered with asteroid craters and cliffs which are tens of kilometres high.
- Mercury's sky appears dark because there is no atmosphere to diffuse light.
- This planet is colourless, has fine dust-filled craters, plains, mountains and valleys.



Venus

- The second closest planet to the Sun.
- Known as the greenhouse planet because of the high content of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- Rotates from the east to west which causes the Sun to rise from the west.
- Has the same size and age as the Earth but its climate is hotter with a temperature around 406 °C.
- Orange coloured, sandy and rocky, there are large plains, volcanoes and huge craters.



Earth

- The third closest planet to the Sun.
- The only planet that contains life.
- Earth's atmospheric layer functions to protect Earth from solar wind, harmful ultraviolet rays and radiation from outer space.
- 71% of the Earth's area is covered with water and 29% is covered with soil and land (plains, mountains and volcanoes).



Mars

- The fourth planet from the Sun.
- Known as the red planet.
- Has two moons, Phobos and Demos
- The atmosphere is divided into two, namely a brighter area covered in dust and reddish sand, and a polar area that contains frozen water and carbon dioxide.
- Reddish in colour, sandy and rocky, there are large plains, volcanoes and huge craters.



Jupiter

- The largest and fifth planet from the Sun.
- Jupiter's mass is 320 times that of Earth, and twice the total mass of all the planets in the solar system.
- Has a very strong gravitational force which is able to deflect huge objects from hitting the Earth. As such, Jupiter is said to be the protector of the Earth.
- Does not have hard surfaces and is only covered by gas.



Saturn

- The second largest planet and the sixth planet from the Sun.
- Has a ring which comprises of ice with a small amount of rocky material and dust.
- To date, scientists have found 62 moons that orbit around Saturn.
- Titan is the biggest moon here after Ganymede. Its size is said to be bigger than Mercury.
- Does not have hard surfaces and is only covered by gas.



Uranus

- The third largest planet and the seventh planet from the Sun.
- The main elements in Uranus are ice and rock. It is known as the giant gas planet.
- Has a ring like Saturn but it is very thin and dark, hence it is difficult to see.
- A planet that has many moons.
- The axis of rotation of Uranus is tilted and almost parallel to its orbit around the Sun.
- Does not have hard surfaces and is only covered by gas.



Neptune

- Eighth planet from the Sun.
- Like Saturn, Neptune is known as a giant gas planet.
- The furthest planet from the Sun.
- Does not have hard surfaces and is only covered by gas.

