



INNER PLANETS: There are four inner planets, named because they are the four planets orbiting the Sun that are inside the Asteroid Belt. The planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars.

MERCURY: The planet in our solar system that is closest to the Sun. It is a dead, Sun-baked planet that is grey in color and covered with craters.

VENUS: The planet in our solar system that is second from the Sun. It is almost the same size as Earth. There is no oxygen or water on Venus. The atmosphere is primarily composed of carbon dioxide and is yellow in color.

EARTH: It is the third planet from the Sun and is the planet where we live. It has water, oxygen, and a protective ozone layer to block out the Sun's harmful rays. Our atmosphere is composed of oxygen and nitrogen. Earth has one moon.

MARS: The fourth planet from the Sun is also known as the Red Planet because the sand on Mars is made of red iron oxide. The sky around Mars has a pinkish look because of the many dust storms on the planet. These storms can last for months. The rocks, soil, and sky have a red or pink hue.

ASTEROID BELT: The area between the inner and outer planets filled with thousands of asteroids.

ASTEROID: Chunks of rock and metal in orbit around the Sun. They may be pieces of planets that have broken off.

OUTER PLANETS: There are four outer planets, named because they are the four planets orbiting the Sun that are outside the Asteroid Belt. The planets are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

JUPITER: The planet in our solar system that is fifth from the Sun. This planet is made up almost entirely of gases. Best known for its Giant Red Spot, Jupiter is covered by a layer of clouds that is many miles deep. The clouds are made of chemicals that give it a red, white, and brownish red appearance.

SATURN: The sixth planet in our solar system. Best known for its giant rings, it is also made up of gases. Saturn is surrounded by 17 moons. Saturn is made of materials that are lighter than water.

URANUS: The planet in our solar system that is seventh from the Sun. Also a gas planet circled by rings, which are made of graphite, the material used to make pencil lead. It is surrounded by gray moons. It is a blue-green gas planet with faint gray rings.

NEPTUNE: The planet in our solar system that is eighth from the Sun. Neptune is made of gases and surrounded by chunky ice rings. It has a blue appearance.

STAR: A self-luminous gaseous celestial body of great mass which produces energy by means of nuclear fusion reactions.

SATELLITES: A celestial body orbiting another of larger size.

PLANET: Any of the large bodies that revolve around the Sun in the solar system.

ORBIT: A path described by one body in its revolution about another (as the Earth about the Sun); one complete revolution of a body describing such a path; a circular path.

SOLAR SYSTEM: The planetary system that orbits around the Sun. The Sun and all the bodies that orbit around it.

ASTRONAUT: A person who travels beyond the Earth's atmosphere: also a trainee for spaceflight.

***PLUTO:** **Was** the ninth planet from the Sun; it is now categorized as a dwarf planet. It has a very rocky, cold and icy surface. Every 248 years, Neptune's orbit is further out than Pluto's.

PLANET	DISTANCE FROM SUN IN MILES	DIAMETER IN MILES	ROTATION IN EARTH TIME	ORBIT IN EARTH TIME
Mercury	36 million	3,031	58.6 days	88 days
Venus	67 million	7,521	243 days	225 days
Earth	93 million	7,926	23 hrs, 56 min	365.24 days
Mars	142 million	4,217	24.6 hrs	687 days
Jupiter	483 million	88,730	9.9 hrs	11.9 years
Saturn	886 million	74,900	10.2 hrs	29.5 years
Uranus	1.78 billion	31,763	17.2 hrs	84 years
Neptune	2.79 billion	30,755	16.1 hrs	165 years