

THE SOLAR SYSTEM

The Sun contains 99.86% of the Solar System's known mass

The solar system formed 4.6 billion years ago and it has 8 planets in it. For thousands of years humans were unaware of the Solar System and believed that Earth was at the centre of the Universe.

Pluto used to be a planet but now Pluto and its moons are known to be just a large example of a collection of objects called the Kuiper Belt.

Mercury
Venus

Earth

Mars

Jupiter

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune

Inner planet—made of rock and metal. Mercury is 36 million miles away from the Sun!

Inner planet—made of rock and metal. Earth is the only planet that we know has life

Inner planet—made of rock and metal. Venus is the brightest planet in the Solar System and can be seen even in daylight if you know where to look

Inner planet—made of rock and metal. Mars is named after the roman God of war and is also known as being the Red Planet

Outer planet—known as gas giant, made mostly of hydrogen, helium and other gases. Jupiter has a mass more than 300 times the mass of the Earth

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Outer planet — known as gas giant, made mostly of hydrogen, helium and other gases. They worked out, using mathematics, that some large, more distant, body must be pulling Uranus towards it at certain points in the orbit — this was Neptune