

Our Solar System

Our **Solar System** has eight planets which orbit (go around) the Sun, which is a **star**. Pluto used to be included as a planet, but due to its small size is now classified as a **dwarf planet**.

Key facts about Our Solar System	
The Sun	- The centre of our Solar System - Essential for life on Earth.
Earth	- Only planet on which water can exist in liquid form on the surface.
Mars	- Sometimes called the Red Planet.
Jupiter	- Largest planet
Saturn	- 2 nd largest planet.
The Moon	- Reflects light off the Sun. - Has phases. Looks different every day, depending on how much of the reflected surface is seen from Earth.

Key vocabulary	
Astronomer	A person who makes observations about and studies space.
Apollo 11	The first manned mission to land on the moon on the 21 st July 1969, manned by Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins.
Dwarf Planet	An object orbiting the Sun that is larger than a comet, meteoroid or asteroid but not as big as a planet (e.g. Pluto).
Gravity	The force which pulls objects towards each other. On Earth, gravity pulls objects towards its centre. Gravity also keeps objects in orbit.
Star	A huge, bright ball of burning gas that is held together by gravity.

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Design brief	A description of what you are going to design and make.
Design criteria	Explains what the product needs to achieve to be successful.
Input	The energy that is used to start something working.
Output	Movement that happens as a result of the input.
Prototype	A simple model that lets you test your idea.



The order of the planets