

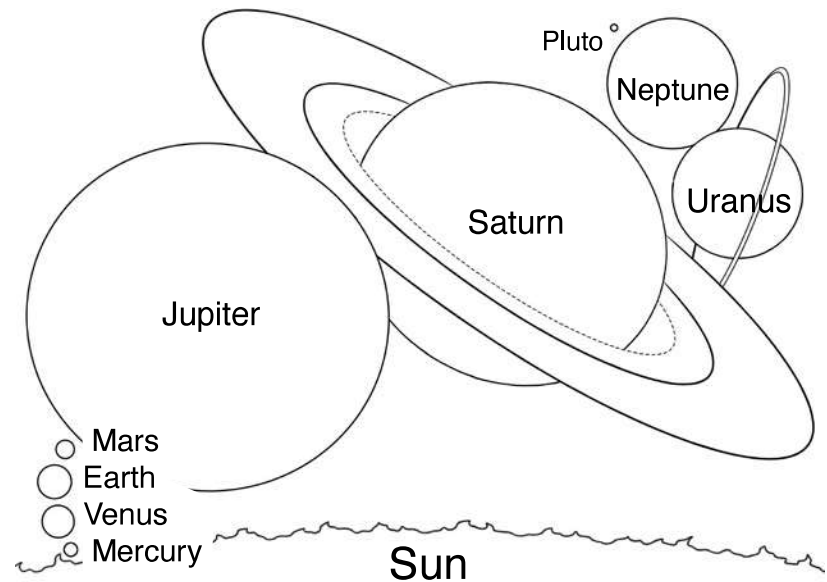
Solar System

Our solar system is made up of the Sun and everything orbiting it. The Sun itself is a huge ball of hot, glowing gas called plasma. It gives light and energy to everything in the solar system.

There are eight planets that travel around the Sun: Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars are the rocky inner planets. Then come the giant outer planets: Jupiter and Saturn, which are made mostly of gas, and Uranus and Neptune, which are icy and cold. These four outer planets all have many moons orbiting them, as well. Saturn alone has more than 270.

Beyond Neptune is Pluto, which is known as a dwarf planet. Scientists have found more dwarf planets out there too! Even though Pluto isn't considered one of the main planets anymore, it's still an exciting part of our solar system.

And here's something else amazing: two spacecraft called *Voyager 1* and *2* are the only human-made objects to have ever left the solar system. They're out there flying through interstellar space, still sending back data almost fifty years after they were launched!



Speaking of the Heliosphere...

Long before GPS was available, nomadic people in Alaska used light from the stars for navigation. These earliest observers of the stars noticed patterns and organized groups of stars as they seemed to travel consistently across the sky. What would you like to know about the Sun or other stars beyond the solar system?



The Ten Kenaga' / Lower Tanana Athabaskan people use the word **sen'** for *star*. Scan the QR code to hear a Native Ten Kenaga' / Lower Tanana Athabaskan language speaker say this word.

