



# THE SOLAR SYSTEM



Fill in the blanks below with words from this box:

Neptune	gas giants	Pluto	planetoids
solar	Mars	nine	comets
asteroids	Jupiter	temperature	terrestrial
orbit	water	Saturn	Uranus
dinosaurs	Earth	Venus	tail
Mercury			

## The Solar System

The \_\_\_\_\_ system is the group of planets that \_\_\_\_\_ our Sun. There are \_\_\_\_\_ known planets in our solar system, but some observers think they have spotted others beyond the orbit of \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Terrestrial Planets

Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars are called \_\_\_\_\_ planets because they have rocky surfaces. \_\_\_\_\_, of course, is the planet we live on. \_\_\_\_\_ is the closest planet to the sun. \_\_\_\_\_, which is also called the evening star, has a \_\_\_\_\_ of 500 degrees Celsius and clouds of sulfuric acid. \_\_\_\_\_ is known as the red planet. Recently, frozen \_\_\_\_\_ was discovered there.

## The Gaseous Planets

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are called \_\_\_\_\_ because they are big and made mostly of gas. \_\_\_\_\_ is the largest planet in the solar system. \_\_\_\_\_ is famous for its rings.



\_\_\_\_\_ also has rings but is not as famous as Saturn. \_\_\_\_\_ is named after the god of the sea.

## Planetoids: Asteroids and Comets

There are many other \_\_\_\_\_ in the solar system. Between Mars and Jupiter there is a belt of small rocky objects called \_\_\_\_\_. As well, balls of ice and rock called \_\_\_\_\_ occasionally come close to the sun creating a bright \_\_\_\_\_ that can be seen from Earth. Some scientists think the \_\_\_\_\_ became extinct when one of these comets came crashing into the Earth.