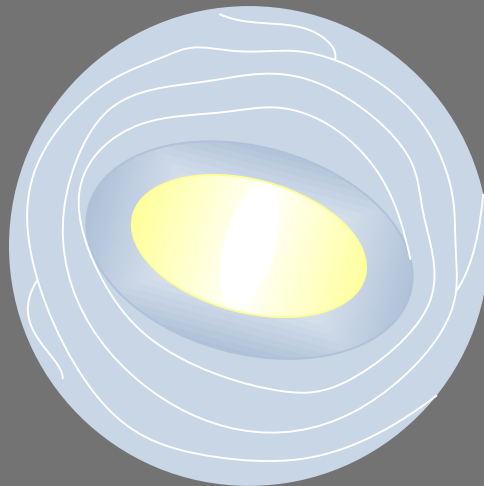


# The Milky Way

Written by Jennifer Cheatham  
Illustrated by Jennifer and Matt Cheatham

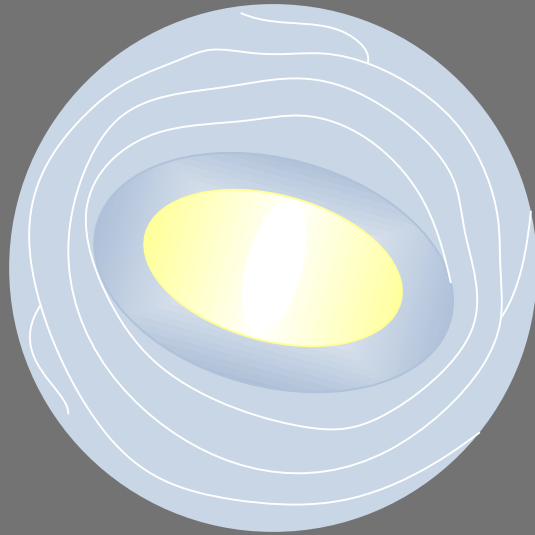
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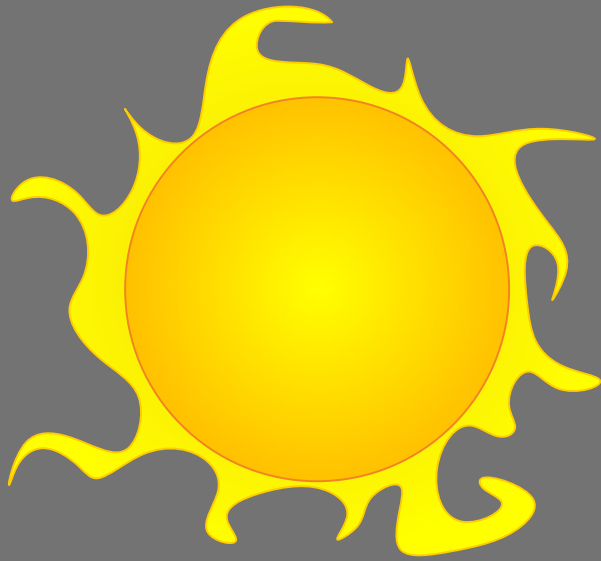
# The Milky Way

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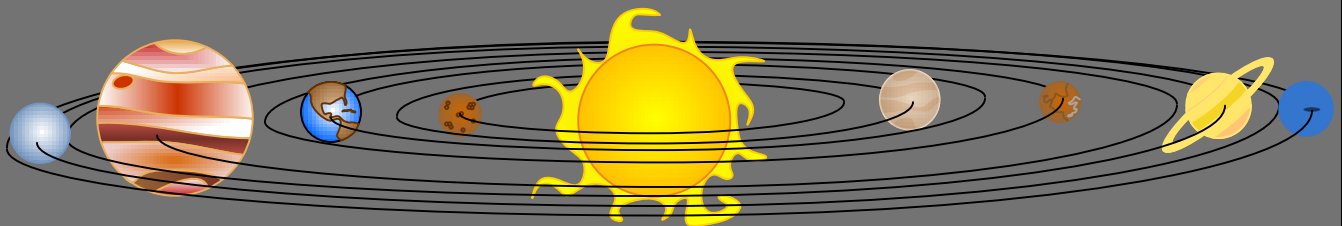


We live in the solar system called the Milky Way. In our solar system there is one big star, which we call the sun.



The sun is in the middle of the solar system. The sun is really a star, but it is in our solar system so it seems like it is really close to us and it feels really hot.

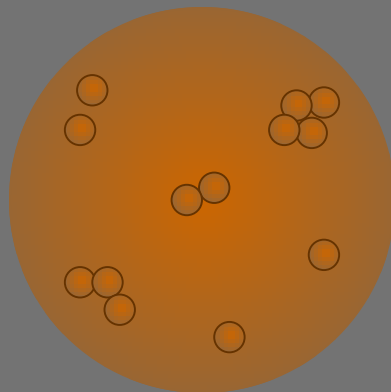
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There are eight planets in our solar system. The planets go around the sun in an orbit. The orbits are paths the planets follow, like a street that you can't see. When something goes around and around something else, we call it an orbit.

4



The first planet near the sun is Mercury. Mercury is the smallest planet. It is very hot. There is no water and very little air on Mercury.

6



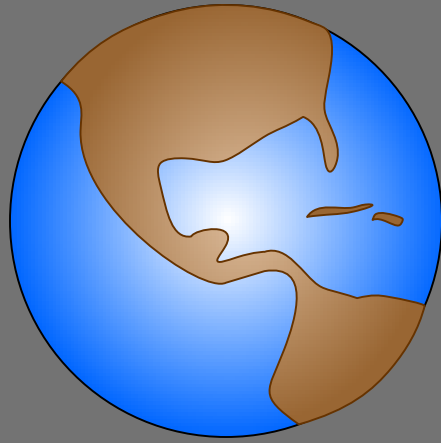
The second planet is Venus. Venus has yellow clouds. The clouds trap the hot air on the planet and make it very, very hot. The yellow clouds on Venus do not make rain because it is too hot.

7



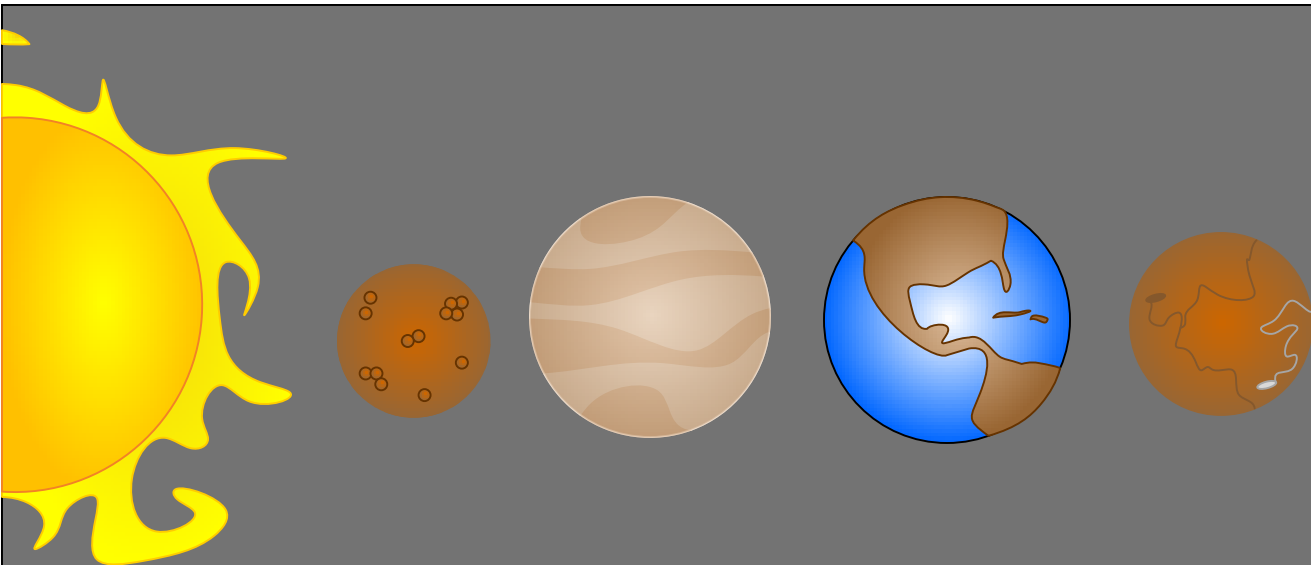
The fourth planet is Mars. Mars is called the Red Planet. It looks red because there is a lot of rusty iron in the soil and red dust in the air.

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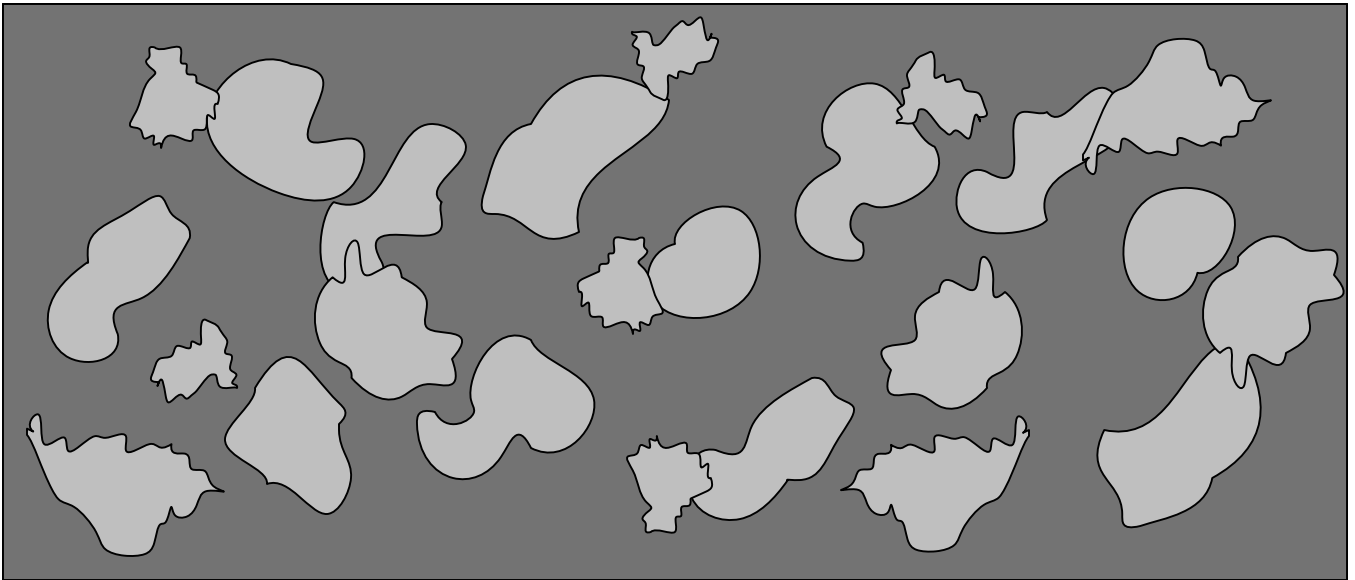
The third planet is the one we live on, Earth. Earth is always moving in its orbit around the sun, even though we don't feel like we are moving. It takes 365 days for the Earth to go around the sun, or orbit the sun, one time.

8



The first four planets, Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars, are the inner planets. All of the inner planets are hard like rocks. The rest of the planets are outer planets. They are gas planets.

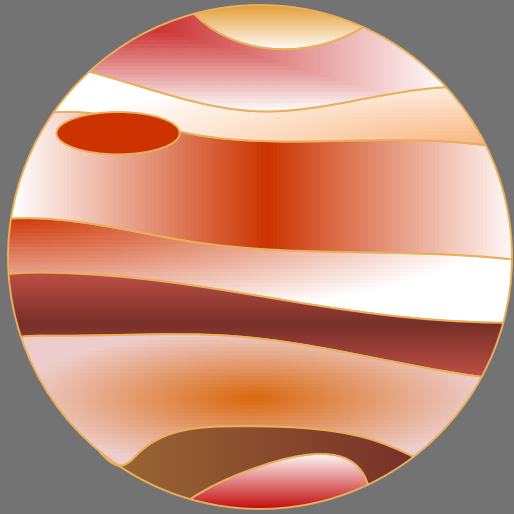
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In between the inner planets and outer planets is the asteroid belt. There are many, many asteroids in the asteroid belt. Asteroids are bits of rock and metal that orbit around the sun.

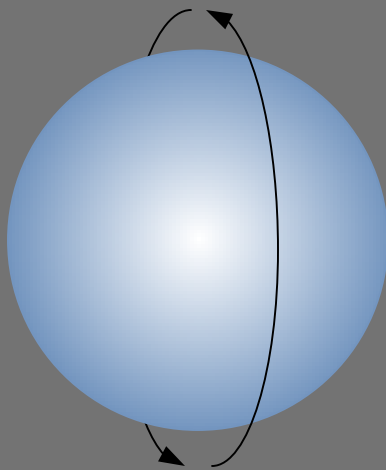


The sixth planet is Saturn. Saturn is made up of mainly gas, too. Saturn has rings around it. The rings are pieces of ice, rock, and dust that orbit around the planet.



The fifth planet is Jupiter. Jupiter is the first of the outer planets. The rest of the planets are outer planets. Jupiter is huge. It is bigger than 1,000 Earths. It is made up of gas. If you went to Jupiter, you could not land on it because it is mainly gas. There is a Great Red Spot on Jupiter. The Great Red Spot is a gas storm.

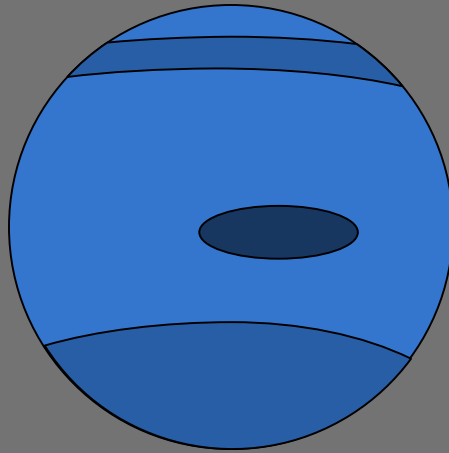
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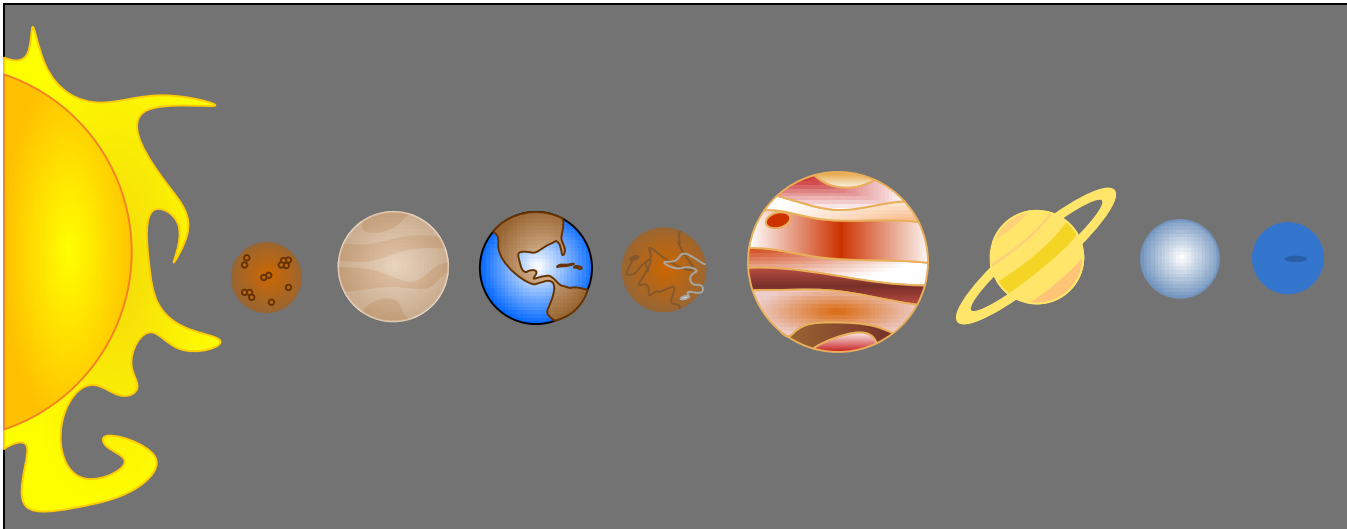
The seventh planet is Uranus. Uranus looks like it is blue-green. It has gray rings that almost cannot be seen. Uranus spins on its side, up and down, instead of side to side.

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The last planet is Neptune. Neptune is also blue-green and made up of gas. Neptune is the last planet and the last of the outer planets. Neptune is very cold. In fact, it is the coldest planet.



Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are the planets in the Milky Way. They all orbit around the sun. We know a little bit about each planet. Maybe one day you can go to the planets and learn more!