



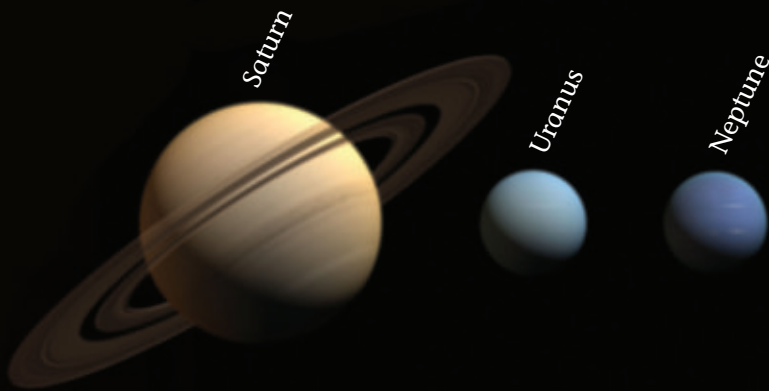
Our solar system

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Since the beginning of time, people have been fascinated by the Sun, the Moon, the stars and other objects in the sky. Ancient astronomers who gazed at the sky noticed that some of the objects moved. They called these objects 'planets'.

Planets orbit the Sun. The planets, their moons and smaller objects such as comets and asteroids also orbit the Sun. They form the solar system.



There are eight planets in the solar system: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

Our home, Earth, is one of the four rocky planets. The other three are Mercury, Venus, and Mars. The remaining four planets are called 'gas giants' because they lack a solid surface and most of their masses are in the form of gas. They are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.