

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.