

Remember the Planets

Here is a quick way of remembering the names and order of the planets.

My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Naming
 e r c u r y e n u s a r t h a r s u p i t e r a t u r n r a n u s e p t u n e

Did you Know?

Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are rocky planets. They are mostly made up of metal and rock. They are called the terrestrial planets and are found in the inner solar system.

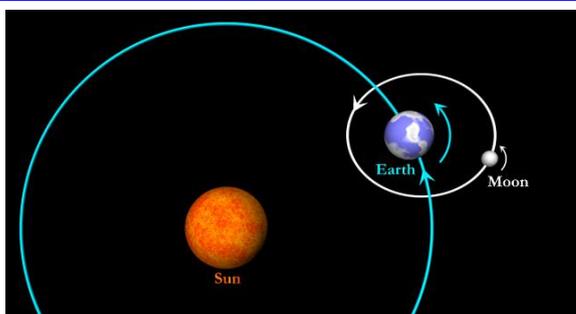
Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are mostly made up of gases (helium and hydrogen) although they do have cores made of rock and metal. These planets are known as gas giants and are found in the outer solar system.

Pluto used to be considered a planet but was reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006.



Did you Know?

The Moon orbits Earth in an oval shaped path while spinning on its own axis. At various times in a month, the Moon appears to be different shapes in the sky. This is because as the Moon rotates round Earth, the Sun lights up different parts of it.



Did you Know?

The Earth takes 24 hours (1 day) to rotate once on its axis.
 The Earth takes 365¼ days (1 year) to orbit the Sun.
 The Moon takes 28 days to orbit the Earth.

Key Vocabulary to learn

Asteroid – A small rocky body orbiting the sun

Axis – An imaginary line about which a body rotates

Celestial – Positioned in or relating to the sky, or outer space as observed in the astronomy

Day – A twenty-four hour period, from one midnight to the next, corresponding to a rotation of the earth on its axis

Dwarf planet – A celestial body resembling a small planet but lacking certain technical criteria to be classed as a planet e.g. Pluto

Geocentric – Where people believed the earth was at the centre of the solar system

Heliocentric – Representing the sun as the centre of the solar system, the modern view of the solar system

Moon – A natural satellite of any planet

Night – The period from sunset to sunrise in each twenty-four hours

Orbit – The regularly repeated oval course of a celestial object around a star or planet

Planet – A celestial body moving in orbit round a star

Rotation – The action of rotating about an axis or centre

Solar system – The collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit round the sun

Star – A fixed luminous point in the night sky which is a large, remote body like the sun

Sun – The star round which planets orbit

Sun, Earth and Moon

Year 5

