

List of planets

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This is a list of two types of planets: standard planets and dwarf planets, in the Solar System.

Technically, there was never a scientific definition of the term planet before 2006. When the Greeks observed the sky thousands of years ago, they discovered objects that acted differently than stars. These points of light seemed to wander around the sky throughout the year. The term "planet" derives from the Greek word "planets" - wanderer.

In 2006, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) convened a Planet Definition Committee, deliberated, and ultimately reached a consensus on a new definition of a planet which leaves us with the eight planets we today consider to comprise the Solar System (thus the exit of Pluto). That new definition: " A "planet" is a celestial body that (a) is in orbit around the Sun, (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, and (c) has cleared the neighborhood around its orbit [meaning: "there are no other bodies in its path that it must sweep up as it goes around the Sun".]"

Our editors will review what you've submitted and determine whether to revise the article.

Our solar system is located in the Orion spiral arm of the Milky Way Galaxy and contains eight official planets that orbit counterclockwise around the Sun. The order of the eight official solar system planets from the Sun, starting closest and moving outward is:

In addition to the planets, our solar system also includes dwarf planets, moons, asteroids, comets, and meteoroids.

Our planetary system is the only official solar system in the Universe, but astronomers continue to find thousands of other stars with planets orbiting them in our galaxy.

Without the sun's gravity, every planet and object in the solar system would drift randomly into space. The Sun provides life-giving light, heat, and energy to Earth.

In this article, I'll provide useful information about each planet in our solar system, and explain why Pluto is considered a dwarf planet.

Even though there are only 8 official planets in the solar system, it can be tricky to remember them all in order from the Sun. A popular technique to use a mnemonic, which can be any sentence you want using the first letter of each planet.



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Here are a few examples of mnemonics for remembering the planet's names in order from the Sun. Feel free to create your own sentence that is easy to remember.

There is an ongoing debate about the number of planets in our solar system. The most recent definition of a planet was released in 2006 by the International Astronomical Union (IAU), an organization responsible for classifying astronomical objects.

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