



Name: _____

Our Amazing Solar System

Our solar system is a huge, amazing place full of planets, moons, and the bright sun! The solar system is like a neighborhood where each planet has its own place, all circling around our star, the Sun.

The Sun: Our Star

The Sun is at the center of our solar system. It's a giant ball of gases that gives off light and heat. Without the Sun, Earth would be too cold for us to live. The Sun's gravity is very strong, which keeps all the planets orbiting, or moving, around it.

The Planets

There are eight planets in our solar system. Each planet is unique, and they come in different sizes and colors. Here's a quick look at each of them:

Mercury - This is the smallest planet and the closest one to the Sun. It's a rocky planet that gets very hot during the day and extremely cold at night.

Venus - Venus is about the same size as Earth but is covered in thick clouds that trap heat, making it the hottest planet in our solar system.

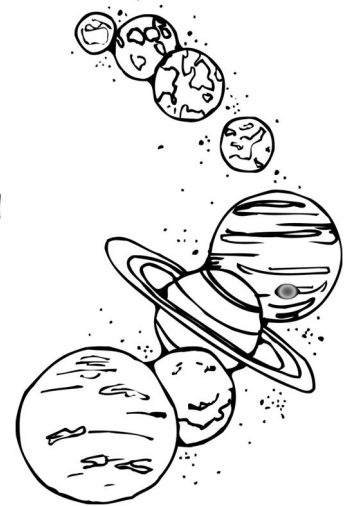
Earth - This is our home! Earth is the only planet we know of that has life. It has air, water, and a perfect temperature for plants, animals, and humans.

Mars - Known as the "Red Planet" because of its red, rocky surface. Mars has mountains, valleys, and is colder than Earth. Scientists are very curious about Mars and send robots to explore it.

Jupiter - Jupiter is the biggest planet! It's a gas giant, meaning it's made mostly of gases and doesn't have a solid surface. It has many moons and a big red storm called the *Great Red Spot*.

Saturn - Saturn is famous for its beautiful rings. Like Jupiter, it's a gas giant. Its rings are made of ice, dust, and rock.

Uranus - This planet is unique because it rotates on its side. It's a cold, icy giant with faint rings and a blue-green color.





Name: _____

Neptune - Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun. It's a cold, blue planet with strong winds and dark storms.

Other Parts of the Solar System

Besides the Sun and planets, there are other interesting things in our solar system:

Moons - Many planets have moons that orbit around them. Earth has one moon, but Jupiter has more than 75 moons!

Asteroids - These are rocky objects that orbit the Sun, mostly in a group called the Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Comets - Comets are icy objects that travel around the Sun. They have bright tails that glow when they get close to the Sun.

1. What are the parts of our solar system? _____

2. How many planets are there? _____

3. What is a moon? _____

4. Why does everything in our solar system orbit the Sun? _____
