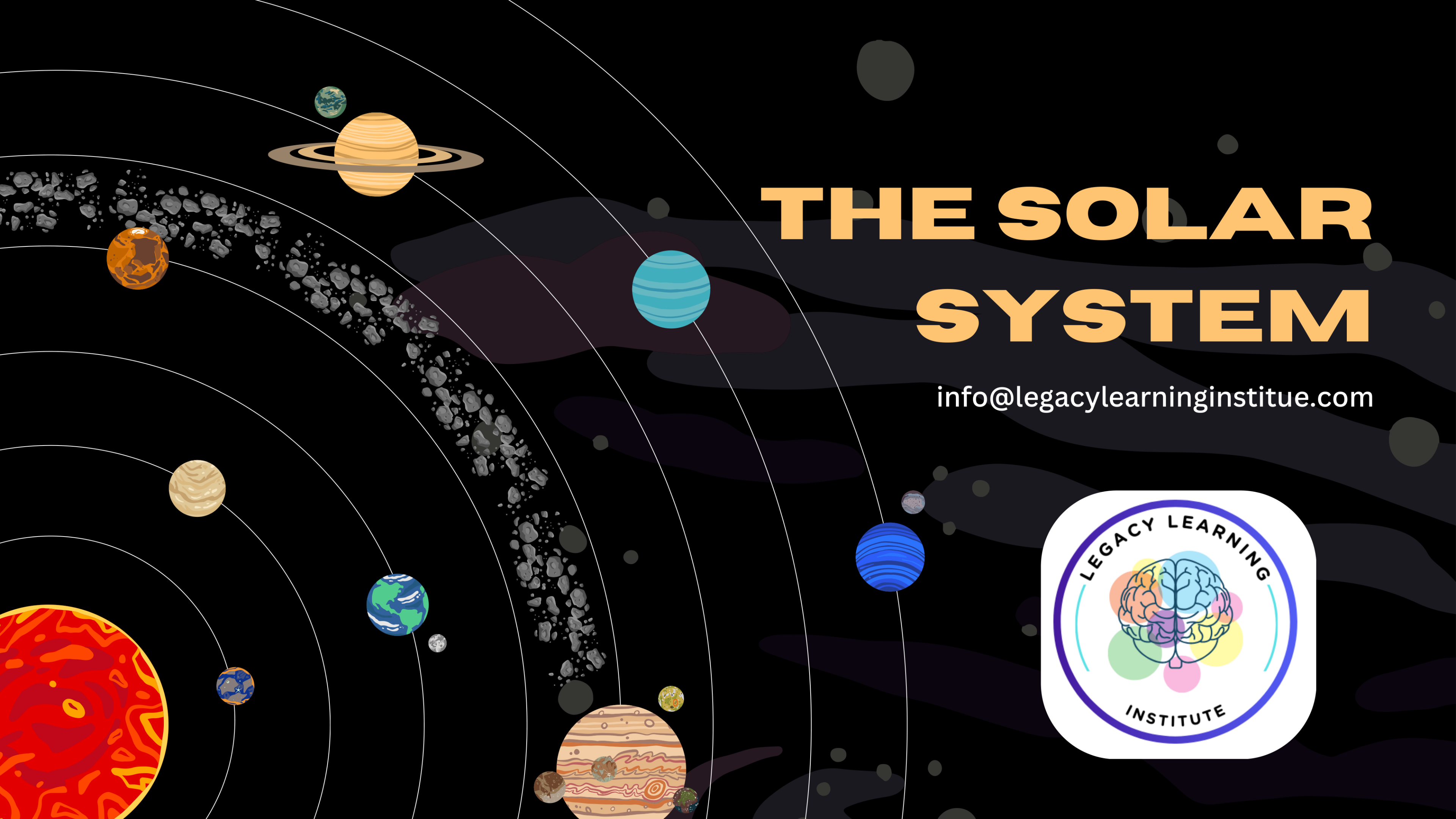
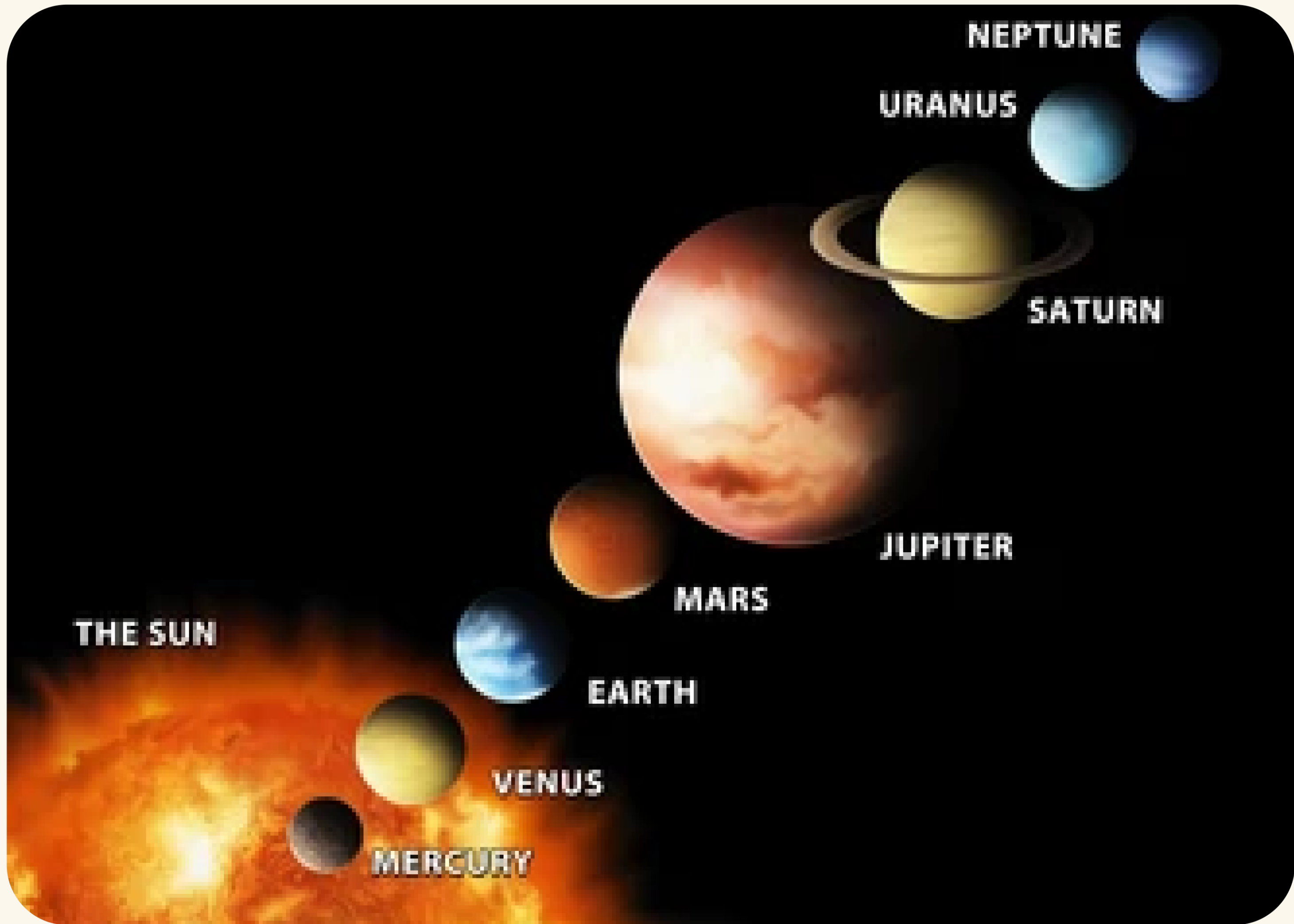


# THE SOLAR SYSTEM

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THE SUN

MERCURY

VENUS

EARTH

MARS

JUPITER

SATURN

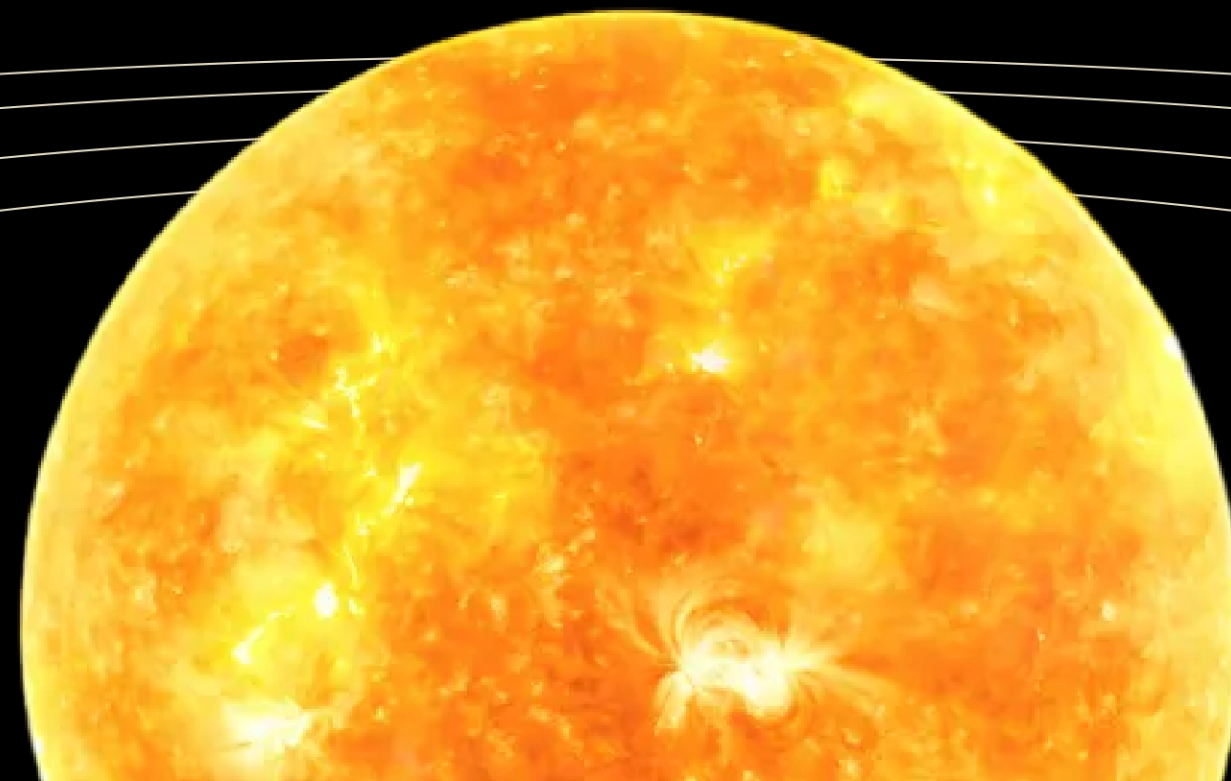
URANUS

NEPTUNE

# THE SUN

Our Sun is a 4.5 billion-year-old star at the center of our solar system, a hot, glowing ball of hydrogen and helium. The Sun is also the solar system's largest object. The Sun is around 93 million miles from Earth, and life as we know it would not be possible without its energy.

The Sun is approximately 100 times larger than Earth and approximately 10 times larger than Jupiter. The Sun's core temperature is approximately 15 million degrees Celsius. Everything in our solar system revolves around it, including planets, asteroids, and comets.



# 1. Our Solar System

- There are 8 planets orbiting the Sun, which is a star at the center of our solar system.
- The planets are divided into:
  - Terrestrial (rocky) planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars
  - Gas giants / Ice giants: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

## The 8 Planets (in order from the Sun)

 Mercury

Closest planet to the Sun


Smallest planet. Has no atmosphere, so huge temperature swings.

 Venus


Similar in size to Earth

Hottest planet due to thick CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere and greenhouse effect

Rotates backwards compared to most planets.

 Earth

The only known planet with life. 70% of its surface is covered with water. Has one moon

 Mars

Known as the Red Planet because of iron oxide (rust) on its surface

Has the largest volcano (Olympus Mons) and deepest canyon in the solar system

May have once had liquid water

## Jupiter

The largest planet in the solar system

Famous for the Great Red Spot, a giant storm

Has over 90 moons, including Ganymede – the biggest moon in the solar system.

## Saturn

Known for its beautiful ring system

Mostly made of hydrogen and helium. Has many moons, including Titan, which has a thick atmosphere.

## Uranus

Rotates on its side – extreme seasons!

Appears bluish due to methane in its atmosphere. An ice giant, colder than most planets.

## Neptune

The farthest planet from the Sun. Deep blue color from methane

Has strong winds – some of the fastest in the solar system

A horizontal line of planets is shown against a vibrant, multi-colored starry background. From left to right, the planets are Mercury (small brown), Venus (orange), Earth (blue and green), Mars (small reddish), Jupiter (large with yellow and white bands), Saturn (large with a prominent ring system), Uranus (teal), and Neptune (dark blue). On the far left, a bright yellow sun is partially visible. In the upper right, a blue comet streaks across the sky. The overall scene is a colorful representation of the solar system.

 **Bonus Planet Fact:**

**Pluto used to be the 9th planet but was reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006 by the International Astronomical Union.**