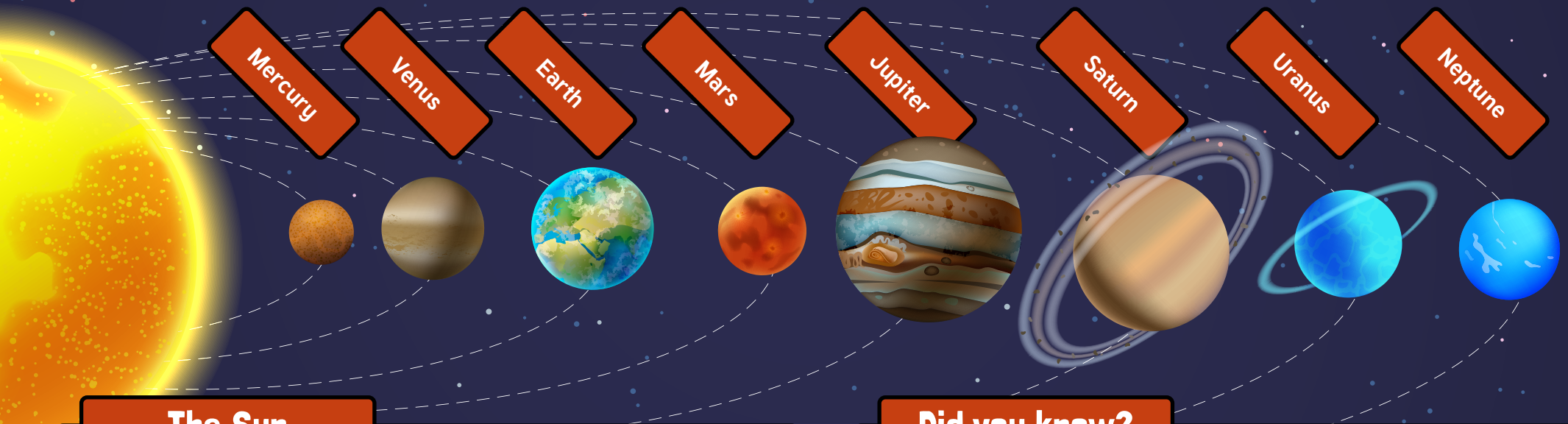


Earth and Space Knowledge Organiser

Science

In our Solar System, there are 8 planets. They all orbit The Sun which sits in the centre. The planets closest to The Sun are the hottest and the planets furthest away are coldest. Our planet, Earth, is just the right temperature for life. Earth is the only planet in our Solar System that has life.



The Sun

The Sun is not a planet! It is a star. It is at the centre of our Solar System and gives light and heat to all the planets in it. It also has a gravitational pull that keeps all the planets in orbit around it.

Did you know?

There used to be 9 planets in our Solar System. There was a planet called Pluto that was even further away than Neptune. Pluto used to be a planet until scientists deemed it 'too small' as some of the other planets' moons were bigger than it. It is now categorised as a dwarf planet instead.

Orbits

All the planets in our Solar System orbit The Sun. The Sun is at the centre of our Solar System. Each planet takes a different amount of time to orbit The Sun depending on how far away it is and how slowly it moves.

Planets orbit The Sun because of gravity. The Sun's gravitational pull keeps all the planets in orbit. Planets travel on an elliptical path around The Sun, which keeps them from falling into The Sun. Below is a table which shows how long it takes each planet to orbit The Sun.

| | |
|---------|----------------------|
| Mercury | 87.97 Earth Days |
| Venus | 224.70 Earth Days |
| Earth | 365.25 Earth Days |
| Mars | 686.98 Earth Days |
| Jupiter | 4332.82 Earth Days |
| Saturn | 10,755.70 Earth Days |
| Uranus | 30,687.15 Earth Days |
| Neptune | 60,190.03 Earth Days |

Did you know?

People used to think the Earth was flat! Around 350 BC, a scientist named Aristotle provided evidence that it was actually a sphere.

Key Vocabulary

dwarf planet – a small planet

friction – the force that acts upon one surface when it moves against another

gravity – a pull force that acts at a distance

orbit – the curved path around a star, planet or moon

planet – an object in space that orbits a star

pull – to move something towards

push – to move something away

Solar System – the name given to our sun and 8 planets and their moons

star – an object in space made of luminous plasma (bright gas) held together by its own gravity

Moons

We are not the only planet with a moon.

Some planets have more moons than us!

Mercury and Venus – 0 moons

Earth – 1 moon

Mars – 2 moons

Jupiter – 79 moons

Saturn – 82 moons

Uranus – 27 moons

Neptune – 14 moons

