

TIME
FOR KIDS

The **Solar System**

SAMPLE

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Huntington Beach, CA 92649-1030
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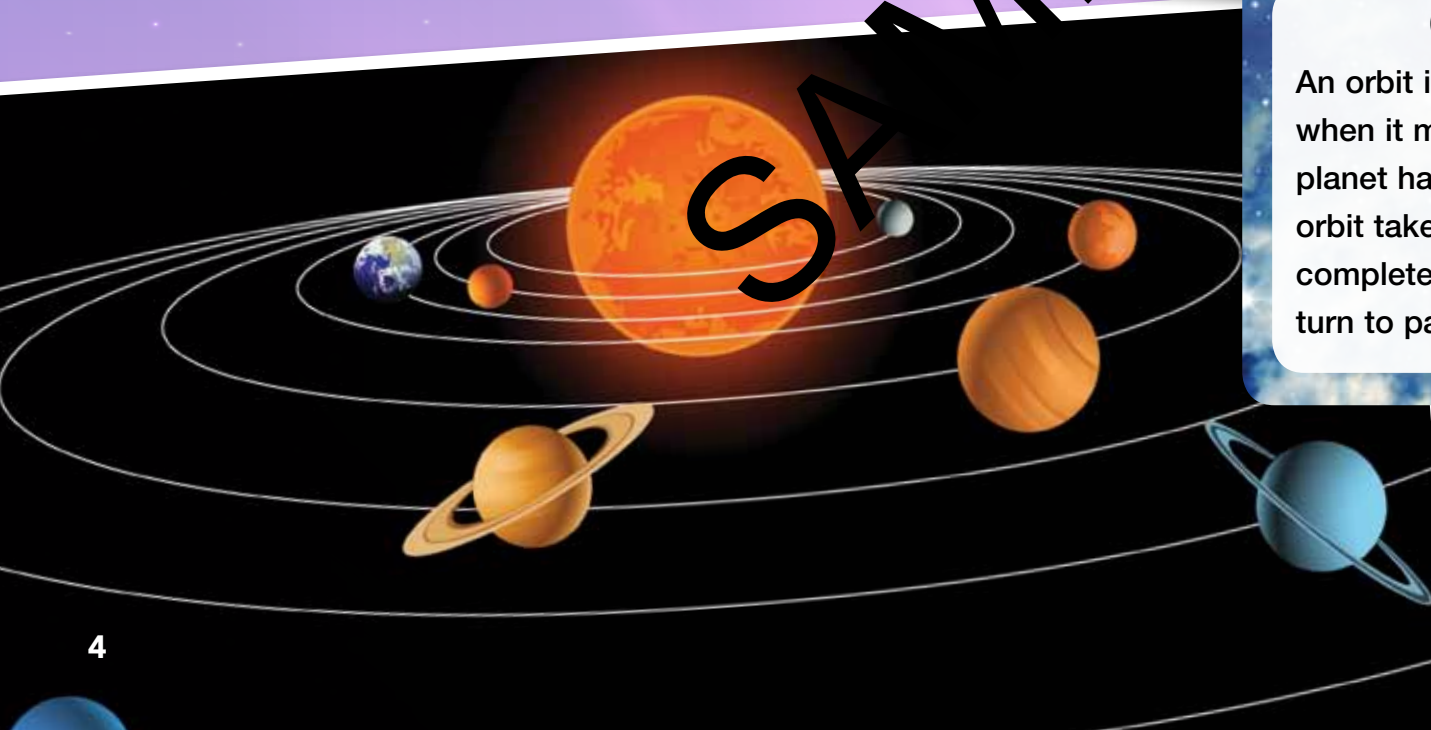
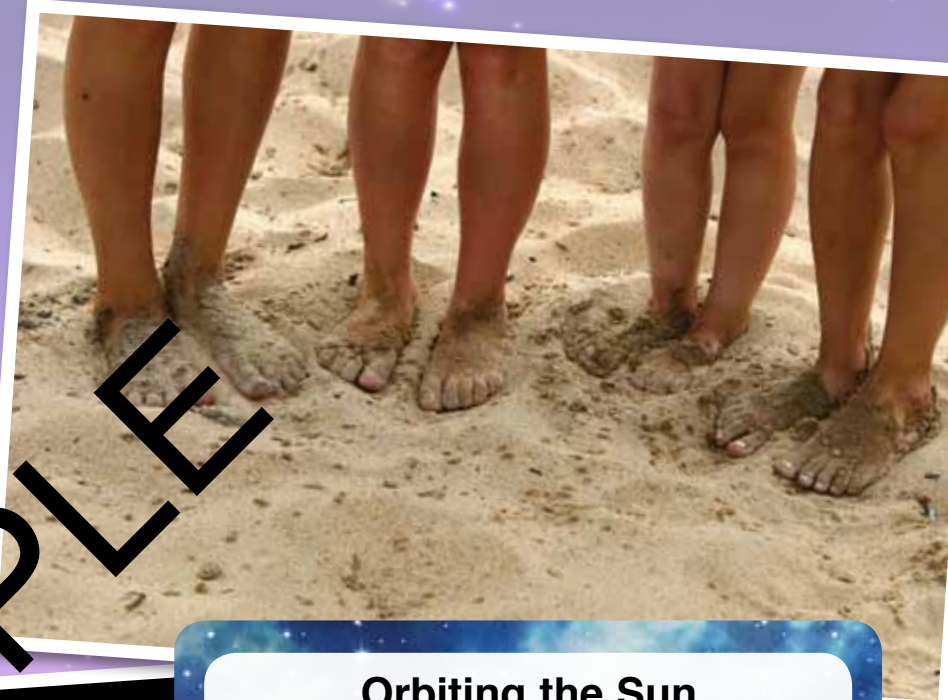
ISBN 978-1-4938-5209-3

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Moving Around the Sun

Think of yourself standing on the ground. The ground is on Earth, and Earth is moving in space around the **sun**.

The sun is the centre of our **solar system**. You and everything else on Earth are moving in **orbit** around it.



Orbiting the Sun

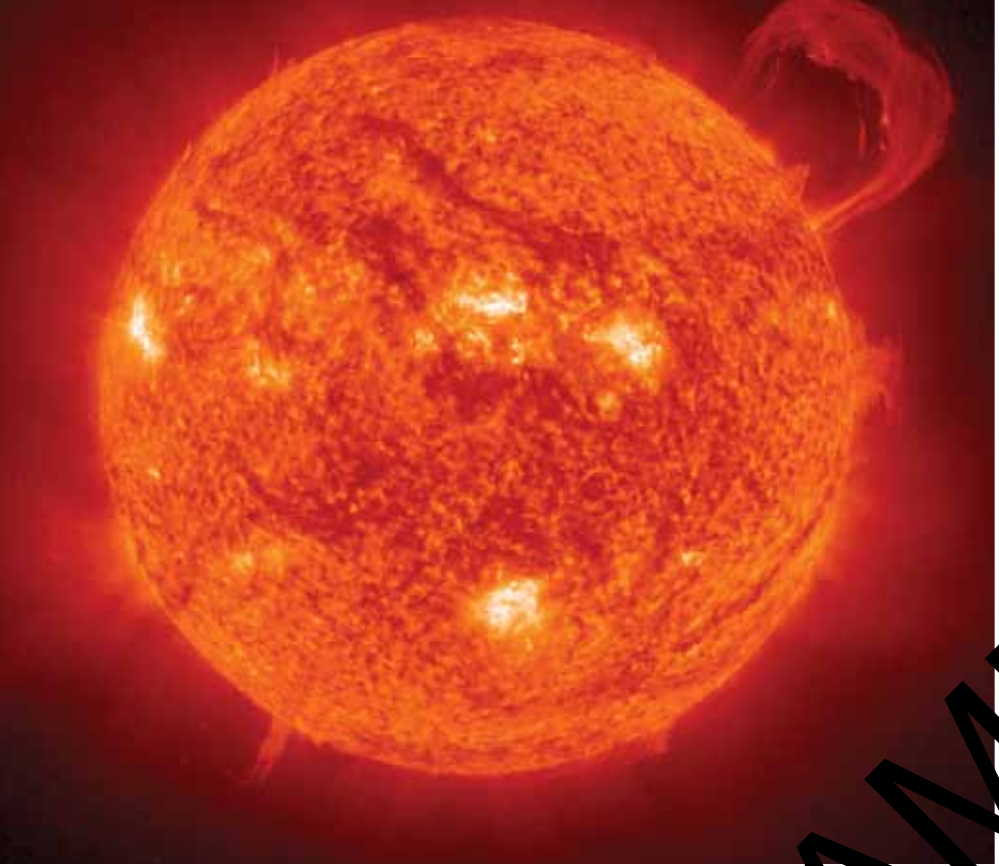
An orbit is the path a planet follows when it moves around the sun. Each planet has a different orbit, and each orbit takes a different amount of time to complete. To read more about orbits, turn to page 22.

One Sun

The centre of our solar system is the sun. *Solar* means sun.

The sun is very large. It is hard to imagine its size. Can you imagine the size of Earth? As big as Earth is, the sun is a million times bigger!

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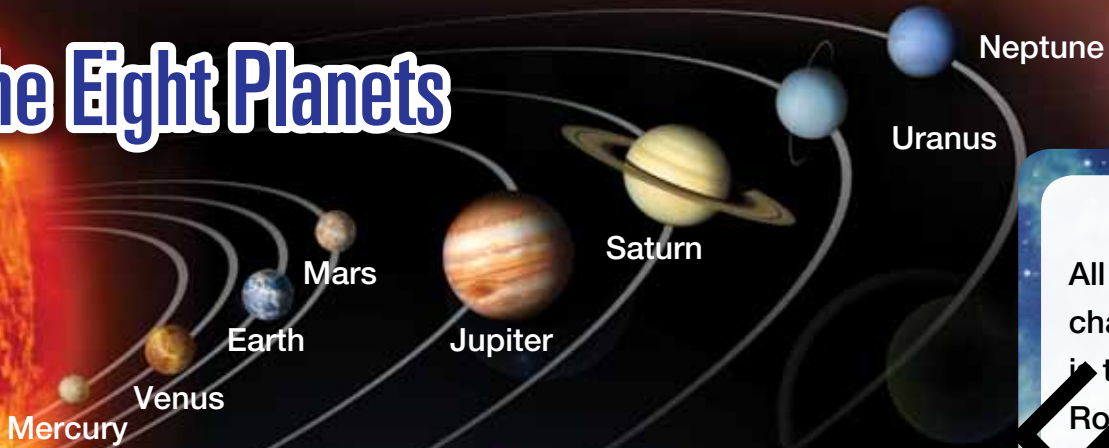
From Earth, the sun looks like a big, yellow ball. But it is not really like a ball. It is made of gases and metals. It is also very hot. Nothing can live on the sun. But it is a good thing the sun is so hot. The sun's heat makes Earth warm enough for people to live.



The North star is just one of many stars shining brightly over Earth.

The sun is actually a star, just like the other stars in the night sky. But it is much nearer to Earth than the other stars are.

The Eight Planets



Planet Names

All of the planets except Earth are named for characters in mythology. For example, Mars is the Roman god of war, and Venus is the Roman goddess of love and beauty. Earth's name comes from the ancient Greek, German and English words for land.



Mars



Venus

Earth is just one **planet** that moves around the sun. There are eight planets in all. The closest planet to the sun is Mercury. Then come Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

Some scientists think that there may be other planets, but they do not know for sure.

The Solar System

Look up at the night sky. What do you see? Our solar system is full of planets, moons, comets, asteroids and more! Let's explore our solar system and Earth's place in it.



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TIME
For Kids
Nonfiction
Readers

Word Count: 586
Reading Age: 8.0–8.5
Reading Level 20 (L)

ISBN-13: 978-1-4938-5209-3



Consolidating Pack
978-1-4938-5216-1