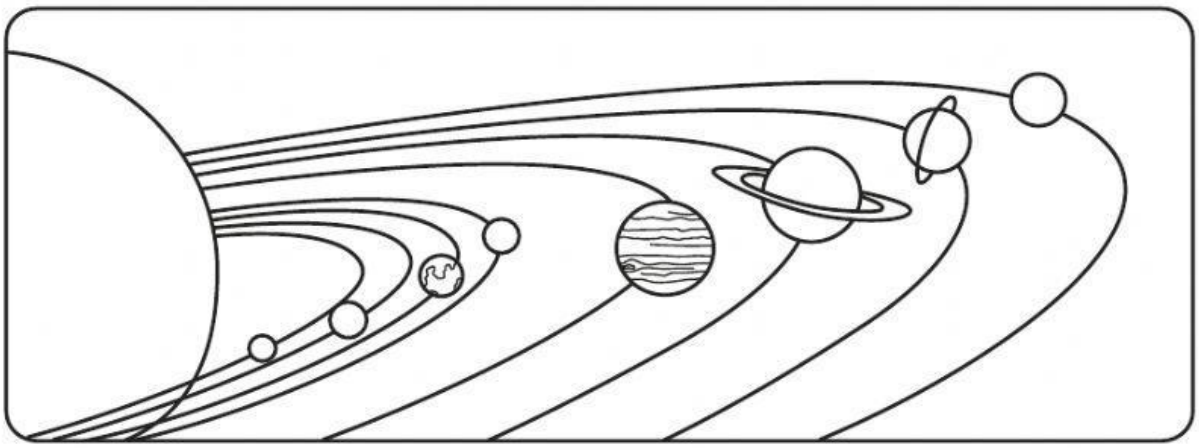
Structure of the Solar System

FACTS

The solar system is the group of planets and other objects that orbit the sun, the huge star at the center. There are eight planets—four small planets close to the sun made of rock, and four large outer planets made of gas and surrounded by rings of ice, dust, and rock. The time it takes for each planet to orbit once around the sun is its year. As the planets travel, they also rotate. One complete rotation is called a day.

Use the words in the box below to complete the sentences.

Day	Gas	Rings	Rock	Star	Year



1. The sun is the ..... at the center of our solar system.

2. A ..... is the time it takes for a planet to rotate once.

3. The four small inner planets are made of ..... .

4. The four giant outer planets are made of ..... .

5. The outer planets have ..... made of ice, dust, and rock.

6. A ..... is the time it takes for a planet to complete one orbit around the sun.