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| CLASS: | Pre-Intermediate CLH |
| W/S: | 1 |

# The Solar System

Read the article and then answer the questions

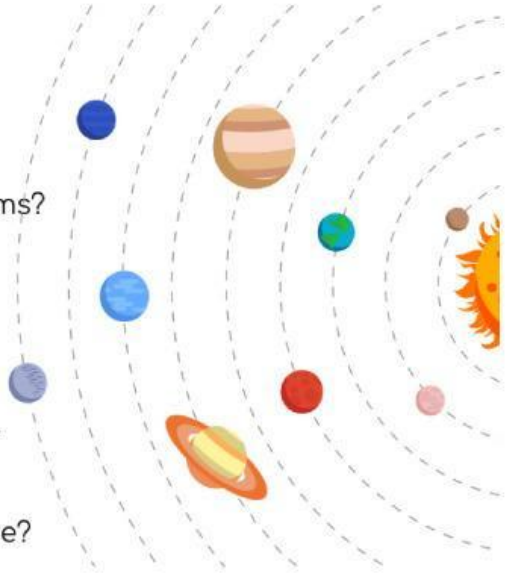
The solar system came into being about 4.5 billion years ago when a cloud of gas and dust collapsed, resulting in a solar nebular, a swirling disc of material that collided to form the solar system, also known as a planetary system.

Only 15% of the stars in the galaxy host planetary systems, and one of those stars is our own sun. Revolving around the sun are 8 planets, and based on their composition are categorised as Terrestrial or Jovian. Terrestrial planets lie on the inner part of the solar system and include Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars which are made up of rocky material. They have solid surfaces and no ring systems. They have very few moons and are relatively small planets. Mercury is the smallest planet and is closest to the sun. It has the shortest orbit which is around 3 'Earthly months'. Venus is the hottest planet in our solar system, with temperatures up to 867 degrees. Around 3.7 billion years ago, Mars had a watery surface similarly to Earth and it's believed it once supported 'life' there once.

The Jovian planets, lie on the outer part of the solar system and include Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus. All Jovian planets have multiple moons, sport ring systems and are immense and have no solid surface. Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system, next to Saturn which is the second largest planet. Both of which are referred to as 'gas giants' made up of helium and hydrogen. In contrast, Neptune and Uranus are described as 'ice giants' primarily made up of a liquid mixture of ice, water, methane and ammonia. Neptune is the coldest planet in our solar system with the average temperature a brutally cold -373 degrees farenheit.

As scientists continue to research the universe and discover new planetary systems, it's nice to remind ourselves that our solar system all revolves around one life-giving star, making it a special place to call home.

## 1 Answer the questions about the reading



1. What is another term for the solar system?

2. How many stars in the galaxy host planetary systems?

3. What are the two categories planets fall into?

4. Describe 2 characteristics of one of the categories.

5. What is the coldest planet? What is the temperature?

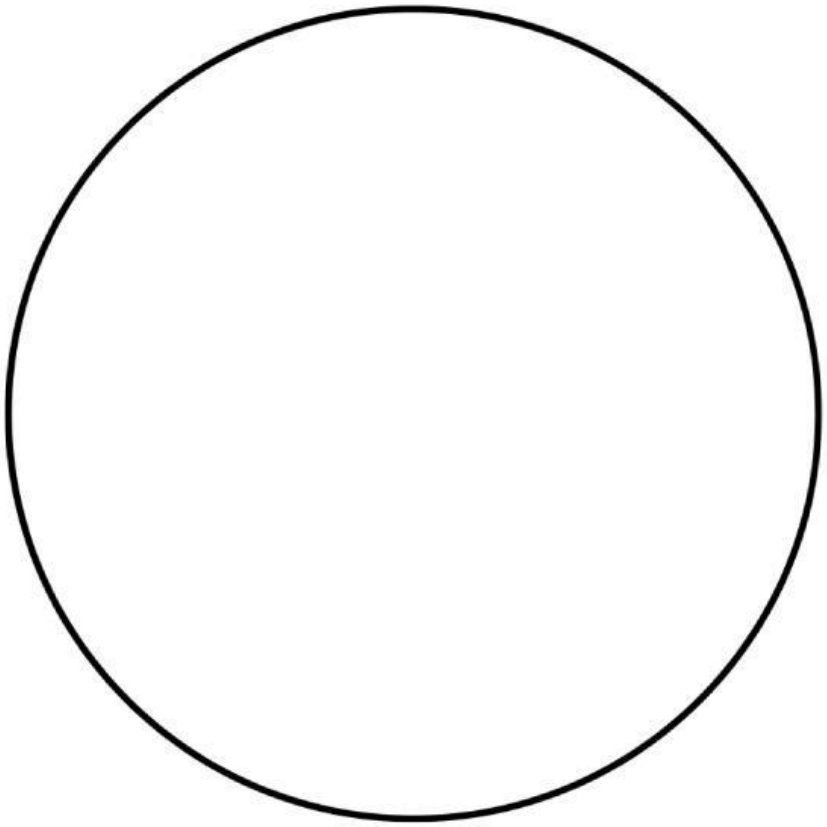
6. Which star gives life to our solar system?

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## 2 Match the word to the correct definition

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A: Gas | ..... | 1. Firm and stable in shape; not liquid or fluid |
| B: Galaxy | ..... | 2. The degree or intensity of heat present in a substance or object |
| C: Jovian | ..... | 3. Describing the larger planets on the outer solar system |
| D: Small | ..... | 4. Extremely big or great or profound |
| E: Immense | ..... | 5. A substance or matter that expands freely |
| F: Solid | ..... | 6. To find unexpectedly or during a search |
| G: Largest | ..... | 7. Of considerable or relatively great size, extent, or capacity |
| H: Liquid | ..... | 8. A system of millions or billions of stars |
| I: Temperature | ..... | 9. A substance that flows freely but is of constant volume |
| J: Discover | ..... | 10. Of a size that is less than normal or usual |

## 3 Create your own planet! What is special about your planet? Is it Jovian or Terrestrial? Can your planet sustain life?



**Write about your planet.**

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