

Reading: Exploring Our Wondrous Space

Our solar system is a **wondrous** place. There are eight planets, and all of them **orbit** the Sun. Scientists use different kinds of technology to **discover** more about space. They use a **telescope** to observe planets and stars, a **satellite** to collect information, and a **rover** to explore the surface of a planet or moon. In the past, astronauts used a space shuttle to travel into space.

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and the smallest planet in our solar system. It is a **tiny**, rocky planet with no moons. It is very hot during the day and very cold at night. When people observe the night sky, they can also see **constellations**, which are groups of stars that form patterns.

Venus is the second planet from the Sun and the hottest planet in our solar system. It is similar in size to Earth and has thick, yellow clouds containing **poisonous** gases. Venus has no moons. Scientists use telescopes to observe Venus from space. On Earth, we can sometimes see the **northern lights** in the night sky. They appear near the North Pole and can be green, pink, purple or blue.

Earth is the third planet from the Sun. It is a small, rocky planet and the only planet known to **support** life. Earth has one moon and a lot of liquid water. Its sky can look **azure** on a clear day. After rain, we can sometimes see a **rainbow** when the Sun comes out. A rainbow is a colourful arc caused by sunlight passing through water droplets.

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun. It is small, rocky and dry. Mars is called the **Red Planet** because its surface has red-orange rocks and dust. It has two small moons, called Phobos and Deimos. Scientists use **rovers** to move across the surface of Mars and **discover** information about the planet. During a storm on Earth, we can see **lightning**, a bright flash of electricity that lights up the sky.

Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun and the largest planet in our solar system. It is much bigger than Earth and has many moons. Jupiter has a huge storm called the Great Red Spot. Scientists use telescopes and satellites to study this giant planet.

At **sunset**, when the Sun goes down below the horizon, the sky can become orange, pink, purple or **azure**.

Scientists continue to explore space and discover new information. Their work requires **bold** ideas and brave explorers. There are still many **wondrous** things for us to discover.

Information	Mercury	Venus	Earth	Mars	Jupiter
Position from the Sun					
Size / Description					
Number of moons					
Special fact					