

Our Solar System

STUDENT RESOURCE 1.2 INFORMATION SHEET



Object	Distance from Sun (kilometers)*	Diameter (kilometers)*	Moons	Rings	Period of Rotation (in Earth days)*	Period of Revolution (in Earth days or years)*	Features
Sun	0	695,500	–	–	25 days	–	surface temperature 6,100 K, mostly hydrogen and helium, makes energy by fusing hydrogen into helium
Mercury	58,000,000	4,880	0	0	59 days	88 days	rocky planet, steep cliffs, cratered surface, extreme temperature changes (–173°C night to 427°C day)
Venus	108,000,000	12,104	0	0	243 days	225 days	rocky planet, rotates backward compared to other planets, hottest planet (over 450°C), covered in thick clouds, atmosphere of carbon dioxide, no water
Earth	150,000,000	12,756	1	0	24 hours (1 day)	365.25 days	rocky planet, land and ocean areas, polar ice caps, varied land features, only planet with life or liquid water
Mars	228,000,000	6,794	2	0	25 hours	687 days (about 2 years)	rocky planet, red surface, polar ice caps, seasons, volcanoes (including largest in solar system), canyons
Asteroids	Varies; most lie between Mars and Jupiter	Varies from 940 km to less than 1 km	Some have, most do not	0	Varies	Varies; largest takes 4.6 years	More than 90,000 have been found and numbered. Some moons of planets may be captured asteroids.
Jupiter	778,000,000	142,984	63**	1	10 hours	12 years	gas giant, strong east-west winds, giant swirling red storm, strong magnetic field
Saturn	1,427,000,000	120,536	35**	Thousands	10.6 hours	29 years	gas giant, less dense than water (could float), five main rings, thousands of small rings; Its moon Titan is bigger than Mercury and has an atmosphere.
Uranus	2,871,000,000	51,118	27**	11	17 hours	84 years	gas giant, rotates backward compared to most other planets, icy insides, rotates on its side, very cold (–215°C)
Neptune	4,498,000,000	49,532	13**	6	16 hours	165 years	gas giant, strong winds, very cold (–235°C); Its moon Triton orbits opposite to Neptune's rotation.
Pluto	5,906,000,000	2,300	1	0	6.4 days	248 years	smallest planet of all, made of rock and ice, tilted orbit; its moon Charon is half its size.
Comets	Highly variable	Varies from 940 km to less than 1 km	–	–	–	Varies; less than 100 to 30 million years	Mostly made of ice. Comets grow tails when passing near the Sun. Tails always point away from Sun.

*All values are averaged and rounded. **Numbers may change as new moons are discovered around gas giants.