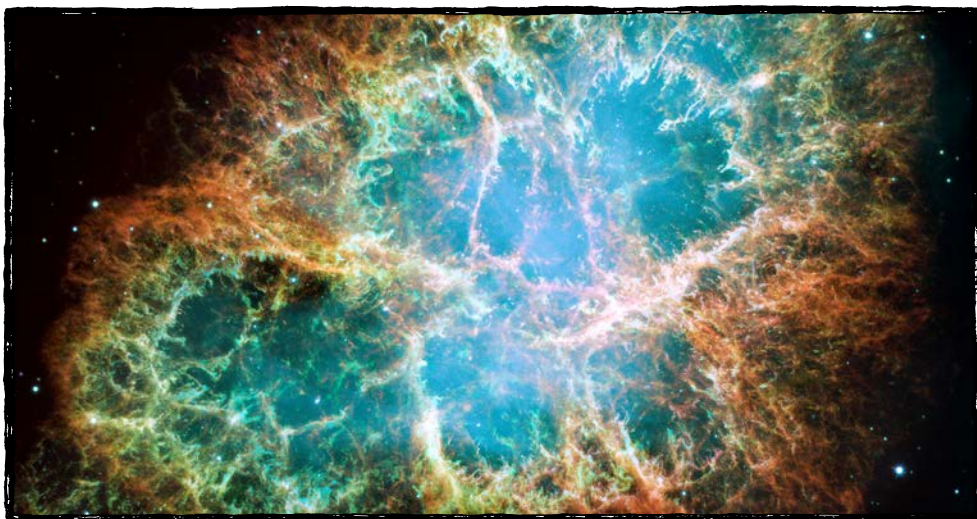


# Planets of My Solar System

Written by Dina Anastasio

## Planets of My Solar System

*Word Count: 674*



Visit [www.learninga-z.com](http://www.learninga-z.com) for thousands of books and materials.

# Planets of My Solar System



Written by Dina Anastasio

[www.learninga-z.com](http://www.learninga-z.com)

**Photo Credits:** ©: iStockphoto.com/Marcel Clemens; back cover: courtesy of NASA, ESA, J. Hester and A. Loll (Arizona State University); title page, pages 3, 4, 6 (all), 7 (background, first, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth from left), 13 (bottom right); courtesy of NASA; page 5: © Bryan Allen/The Image Bank/Getty Images; page 7 (second from left): courtesy of Mariner 10, Astrogeology Team, U.S. Geological Survey; pages 7 (third from left), 9 (top right); courtesy of SSV/MIP/Magellan Team/NASA; pages 7 (ninth from left), 9 (bottom center), 11 (bottom right), 12 (bottom left, bottom center), 13 (bottom left), 15 (top); courtesy of NASA/JPL; page 8 (bottom left, bottom right); courtesy of NASA/JPL/Northern University; page 8 (right); courtesy of USGS and NASA; page 9 (bottom left); courtesy of JPL/MIP/USGS/NASA; page 9 (bottom right); courtesy of NASA/JPL/Cornell; page 11 (top right); courtesy of USGS Astrogeology Research Program, <http://astrogeology.usgs.gov>; page 14 (right); courtesy of NASA, ESA, and M. Showalter (SETI Institute); page 15 (bottom); courtesy of NASA/STScI; page 16: courtesy of NASA/ESA/STScI

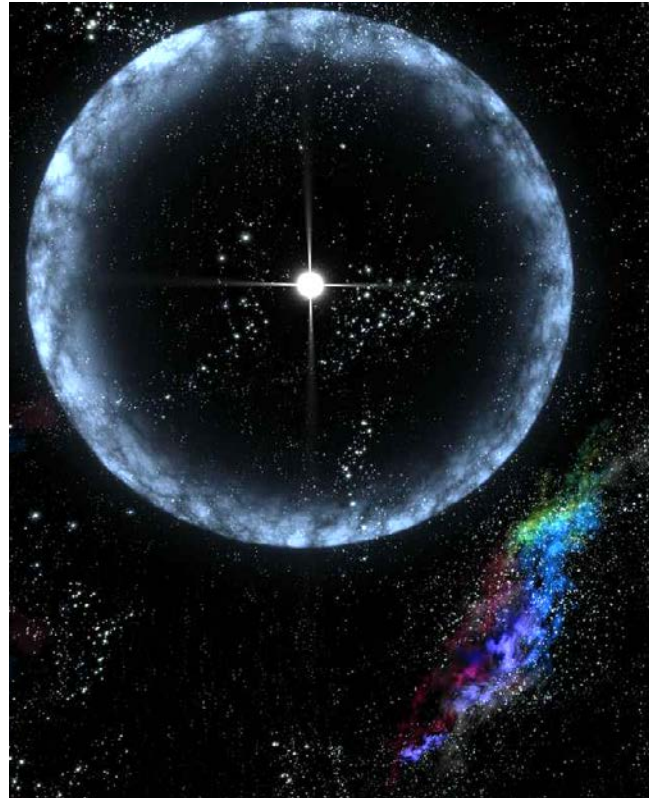
Planets of My Solar System  
© Learning A-Z  
Written by Dina Anastasio  
All rights reserved.  
[www.learninga-z.com](http://www.learninga-z.com)



# Table of Contents

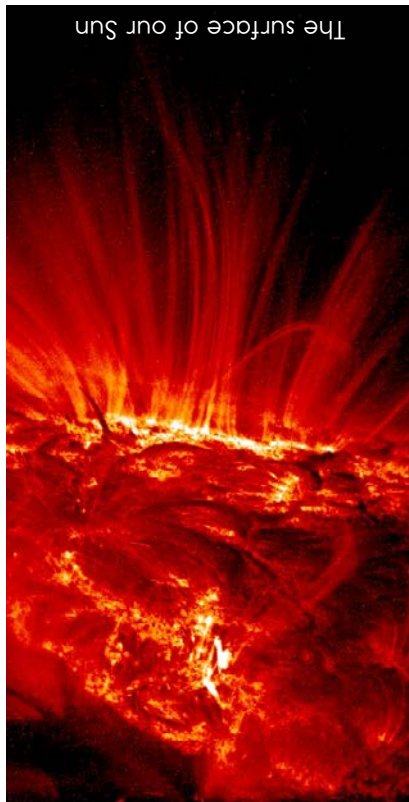
|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| My Solar System.....      | 4  |
| Mercury.....              | 8  |
| Venus.....                | 9  |
| Earth.....                | 10 |
| Mars, the Red Planet..... | 11 |
| Jupiter.....              | 12 |
| Saturn.....               | 13 |
| Uranus.....               | 14 |
| Neptune.....              | 15 |

Planets of My Solar System



3

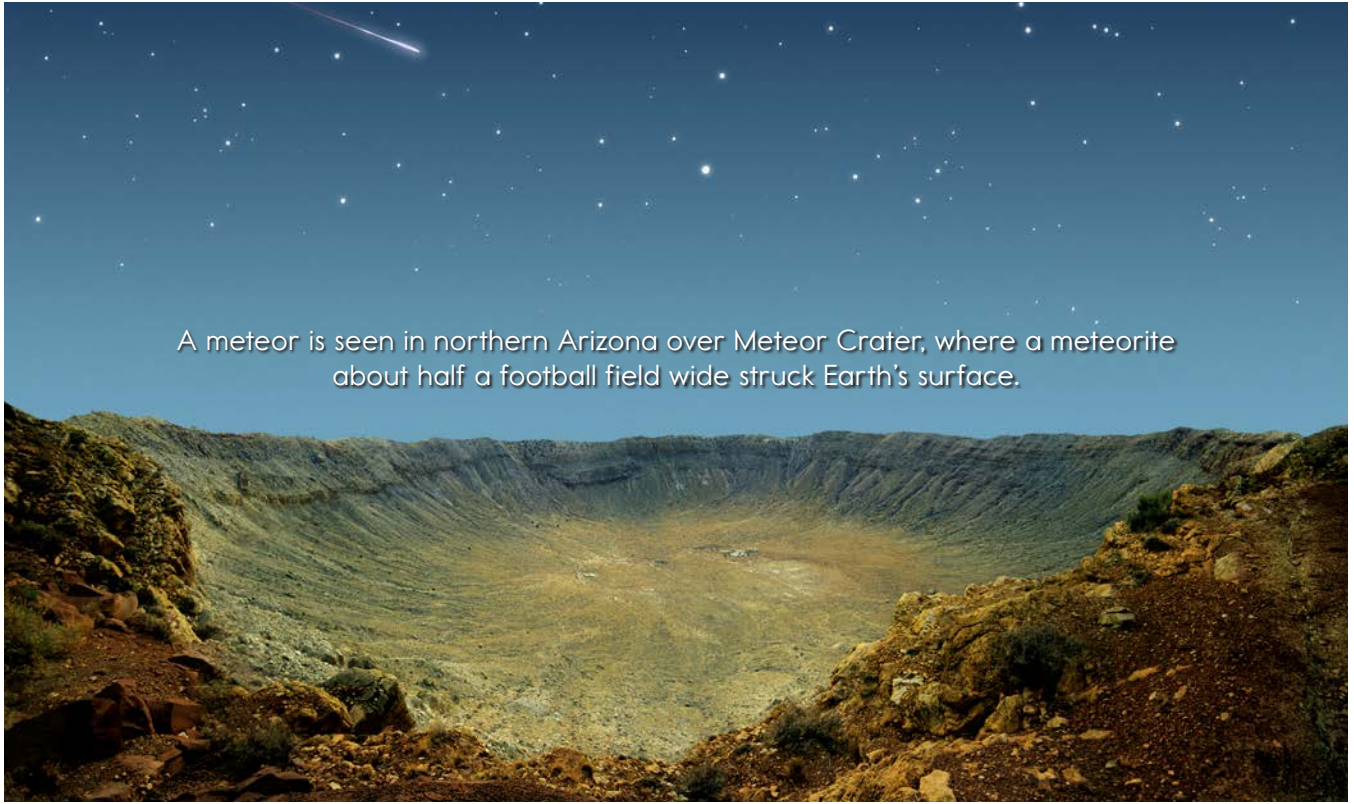
h



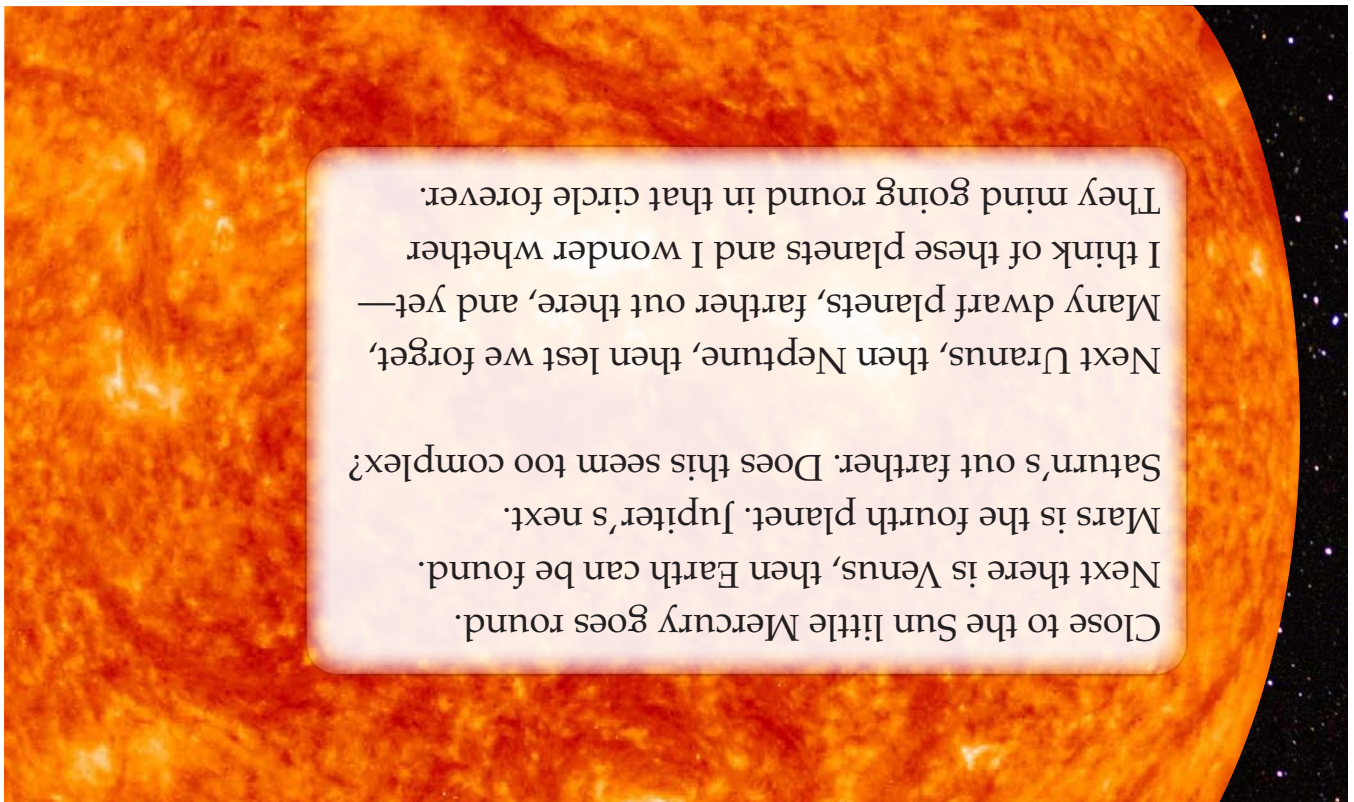
The surface of our Sun

There's one little star that we all will agree  
Is the one we know best in our huge galaxy.  
This star is our Sun, it's our high-powered center.  
You're part of it all, so welcome, please enter.  
Orbiting round it are comets and gas.  
Asteroids and meteors also circle that mass.  
Eight planets are in orbit, circling our Sun,  
Traveling around it, alone, one by one.

## My Solar System

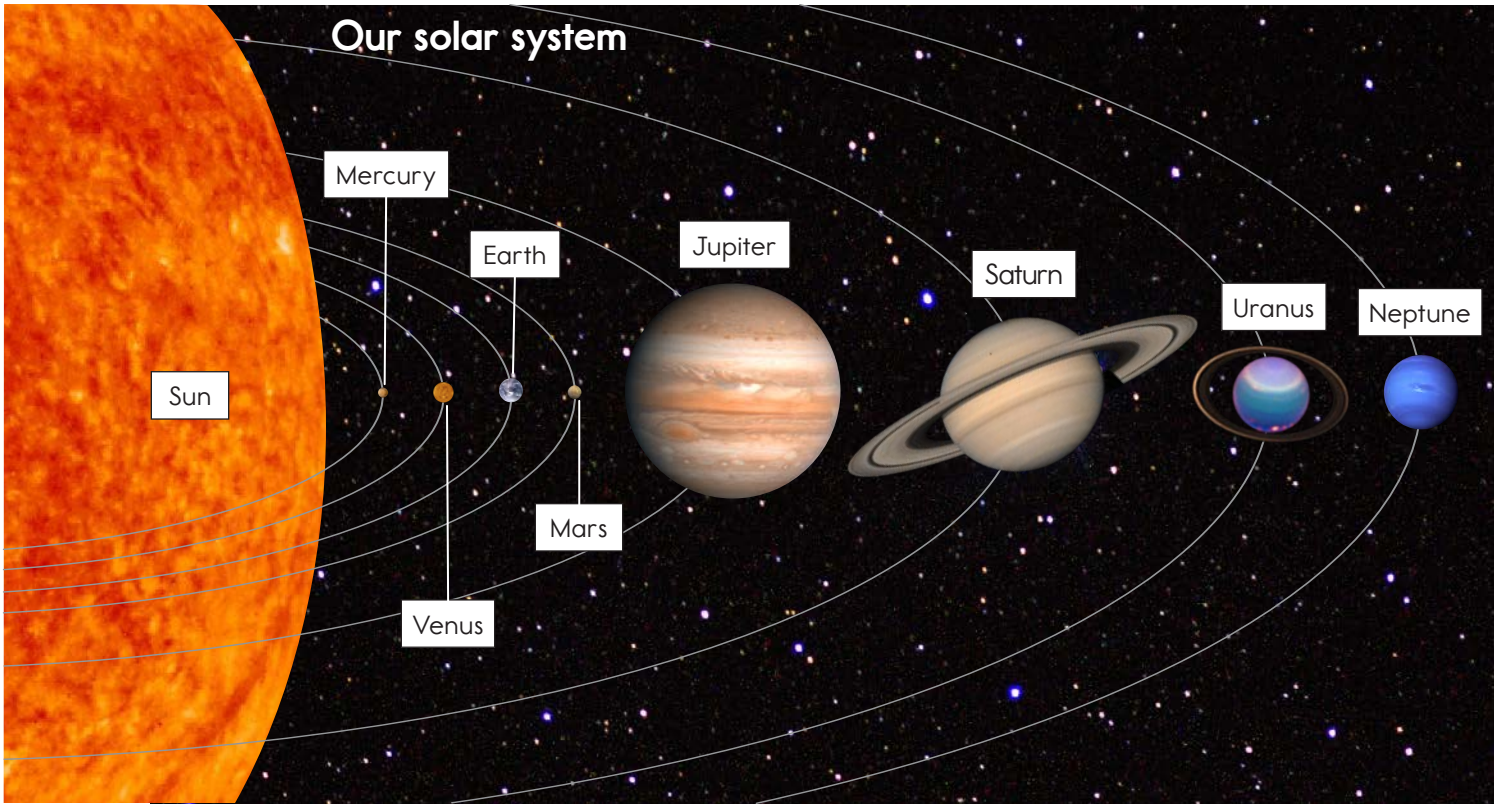


A meteor is seen in northern Arizona over Meteor Crater, where a meteorite about half a football field wide struck Earth's surface.

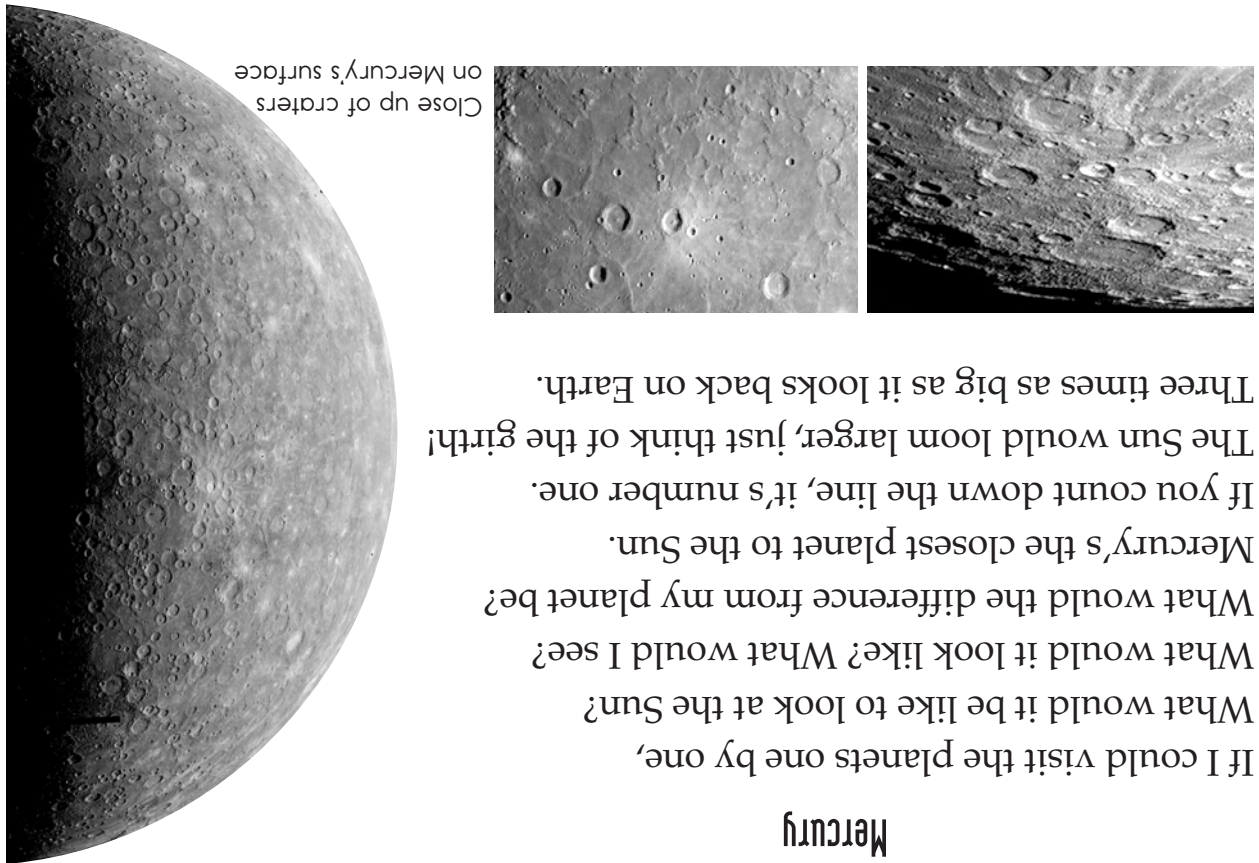


Close to the Sun little Mercury goes round.  
Next there is Venus, then Earth can be found.  
Mars is the fourth planet. Jupiter's next.  
Saturn's out farther. Does this seem too complex?  
Next Uranus, then Neptune, then lest we forget,  
Many dwarf planets, farther out there, and yet—  
I think of these planets and I wonder whether  
They mind going round in that circle forever.





Planets of My Solar System

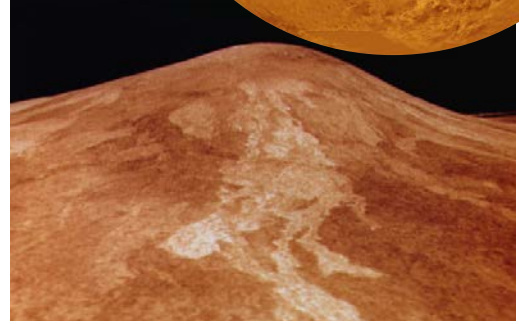
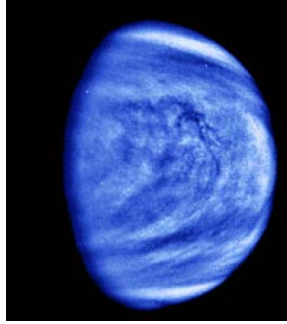
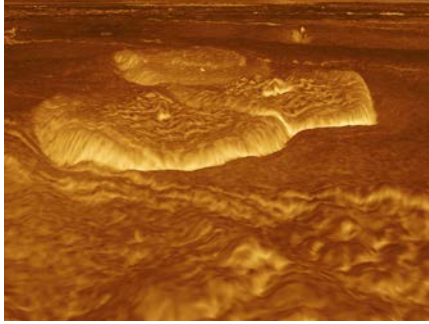


## Mercury

If I could visit the planets one by one, what would it be like to look at the Sun? What would it look like? What would I see? What would the difference from my planet be? Mercury's the closest planet to the Sun. If you count down the line, it's number one. The Sun would loom larger, just think of the girth! Three times as big as it looks back on Earth.

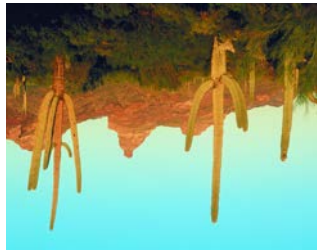
# Venus

When I'm standing on Earth, Venus is seen  
 In the morning or evening, but not in between.  
 Venus is hot. It's the hottest of all.  
 It has clouds that trap heat from the Sun's fiery ball.  
 The atmosphere's poison. The heat's broiling hot.  
 It's lovely to look at, but to visit . . . I think not!



Venus's deep valleys and high mountains are difficult to see through its atmosphere.

Earth's surface  
 has many  
 different kinds  
 of habitats.



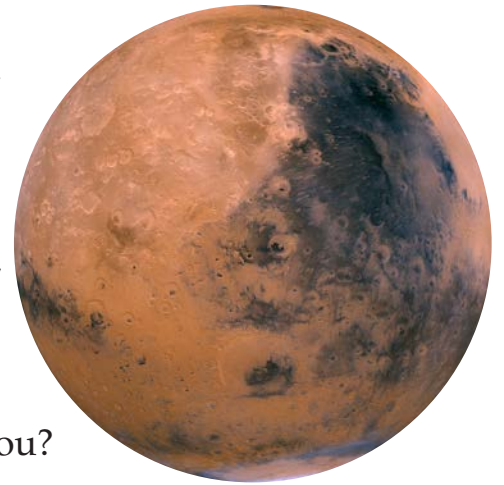
Earth is the perfect planet for me.  
 Not too hot or too cold. It's a fine place to be.  
 But the thing I like best is the Earth's lovely seasons.  
 Why do we have them? Let me tell you the reasons.  
 Our Earth has a tilt, so in summer I face  
 The heat of the Sun floating out there in space.  
 But my friend's home is elsewhere. The Sun's tilted away.  
 So my hot summer morning is her cold winter day.

# Earth



## Mars, the Red Planet

When you're thinking of Mars, think of iron and rust,  
 For Mars is the planet with iron-rich dust.  
 Because of this dust, it seems red from afar,  
 But I guess that the color depends where you are.  
 When a spaceship explored this nearby "Red Planet,"  
 And wandered around with a camera to scan it,  
 It discovered that Mars has a butterscotch hue.  
 But I don't want to call it "Butterscotch Planet." Do you?



The surface of Mars shows the same colors in canyons, plains, and mountains.

Space probes show us Jupiter's atmosphere and its moons.

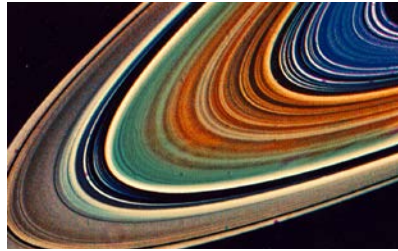
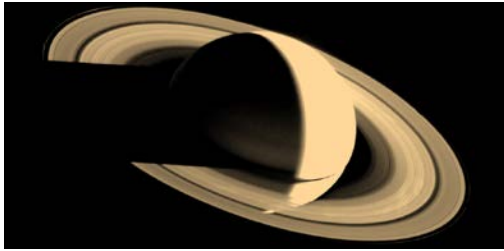
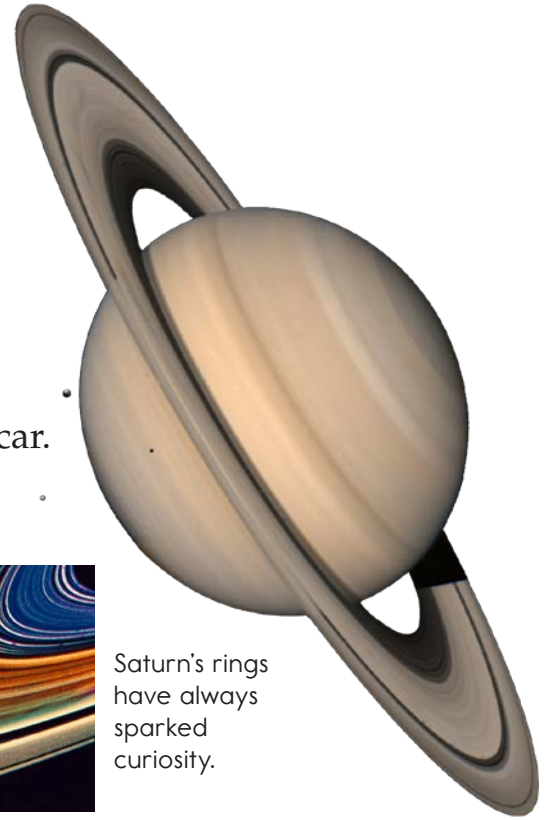


Jupiter's huge! It's so big it could fit  
 All seven other planets in the middle of it.  
 It has quite a few moons, and a great big red spot.  
 That's really a storm though it looks like a dot.  
 This storm is gigantic! It never stops swirling.  
 It doesn't pass land, so it never stops twirling.

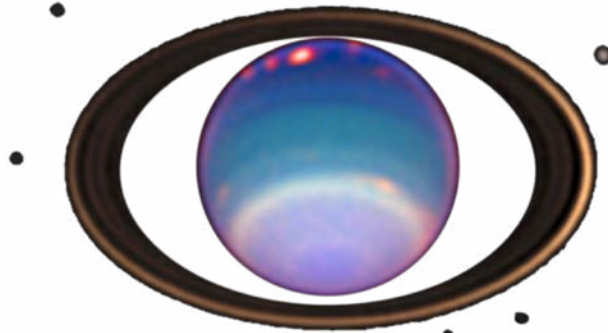
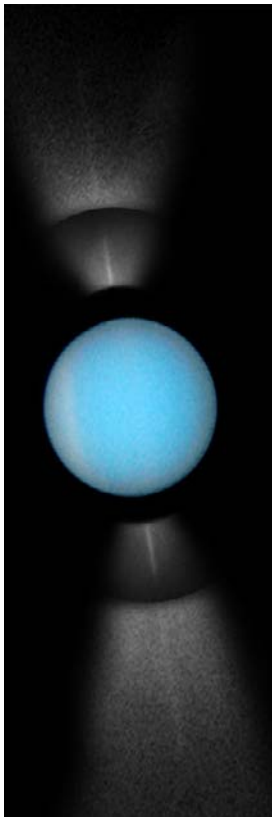


# Saturn

Saturn's the only planet that might float,  
 Like a bouncy big bobbing round rubber boat.  
 It's a planet of gases, and gas is quite light,  
 But it's icy, not wet, hence I used the word *might*.  
 Speaking of ice, Saturn's many grand rings  
 Are magnificent, glorious, heavenly things.  
 They are made up of ice chunks, some as big as a car.  
 The ice never melts when the Sun is so far.



Saturn's rings have always sparked curiosity.



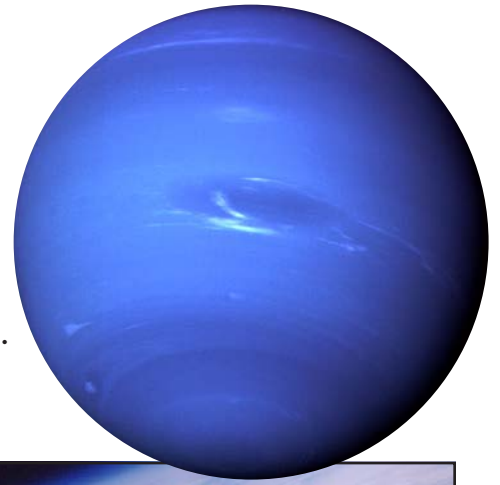
Uranus is far. It's a cold frozen place.  
 I don't want to live there. It's too far out in space.  
 Like some other planets, there are moons that surround it.  
 And a belt of faint gray and blue rings are around it.  
 I hear it has seasons, which might be quite nice.  
 It's tilted like Earth, so at times all that ice  
 Is warmed by the Sun. But when the Sun glows,  
 Does the ice melt out there? Nobody knows.

# Uranus



# Neptune

Neptune is frigid. It looks blue from down here,  
Which is due to the gas in its thick atmosphere.  
Look through a telescope and you'll see it's a place  
With a strange Great Dark Spot far out there in space.  
The spot is a hurricane with horrendous strong winds.  
There is no other planet where such giant winds spin.



## Pictures of Our Solar System

Do you know how scientists take pictures of our solar system and the rest of the universe? One of the most important ways they do this is by using the Hubble Space Telescope. The Hubble orbits Earth and can take pictures that are not distorted by our planet's atmosphere. The Hubble has helped scientists make incredible discoveries, including galaxies 10 billion light-years away.



Write Your Own Space Poem