

The Solar System





4

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LET'S START!

Our **solar system** is made up of the eight planets that orbit our Sun.

There is the **inner solar system** with the terrestrial planets (*made of rock*) – **Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.**

There is also the **outer solar system** with the gaseous planets (*made of gas*) – **Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.**

Here is a fun way of remembering the order of the planets from the Sun!

Sun

Mercury

Venus

Earth

Mars

Jupiter



My Very Educated Mother

Just



The solar system has also got dwarf planets, moons, comets and asteroids that orbit our Sun.

Let's take a first look at our amazing solar system!



Saturn



Uranus



Neptune

Served

Us

Noodles.

Find someone to test you!



1

THE SUN

In many ancient civilisations, the **Sun** was very important. The ancient Greeks called the Sun *Helios*. In ancient Egypt, the god of the Sun was Ra. Every morning, Ra travelled across the sky in a bright boat. He wanted to see all of his lands. Then, in the evening, Ra died. The story of his trip every day explained why the Sun moved across the sky.

The Romans called the Sun *Sol*, which in English means *sun*. This is why our system of planets is called the **solar system**. We cannot live without the Sun. The Sun gives heat and energy to Earth. Our plants even use sunlight to make food.

The **Sun** is not a planet, it is a star. It is in the centre of our solar system and it is an almost perfect sphere. It seems bigger and brighter than other stars because we are so close to it. The Sun and all the other stars are made of hot gas.



*The Egyptian
god Ra moved
across the sky
every day.*



THE SUN

Size: about 1,400,000 kilometres across

**How many Earths
can fit inside the
Sun:** 1,300,000



The light from the Sun reaches Earth in only 8 minutes! This is called the **speed of light**!

**READ
MORE**

Halley's Comet and the Norman Invasion

The year 1066 is a very important date in British history. Two men fought over the future of England. William was Duke of Normandy in northern France but he wanted to be king of England.

England already had a king – Harold II. William wanted to go to England to fight Harold and become the next king.

England had a large army and William knew a war with England could be difficult. At the same time, Harold wanted to fight William to protect his country.



Then, something happened to change everything for both men. A strange light appeared in the sky. To William, this was a sign of good luck. He felt sure that his army could win the battle and that he could become the next king of England. Harold saw the mysterious light as a sign of bad luck. He was worried about his country. He was no longer sure that his army could win.



1

THE SUN

1 Label the pictures.

heat

god

planet

sunlight

energy

trip

1



3



5



2



4



6



2 Read and circle **True** or **False**.

- 1 Ra was an ancient Egyptian god.
- 2 Ra travelled across the sky in a plane.
- 3 *Soi* is the ancient Greek name for the Sun.
- 4 The Sun gives Earth energy.
- 5 The Sun is a planet.
- 6 The Sun is bigger than Earth.
- 7 The Sun is made of hot gas.
- 8 The light from the Sun reaches Earth in ten minutes.

True False

True False

True False

True False

True False

True False

True False

True False



3 Read and circle the correct words.

- 1 In **ancient** / **big** civilisations the Sun was important.
- 2 Ra died in the **morning** / **evening**.
- 3 Our system of planets is called the **sol** / **solar** system.
- 4 The Sun **is** / **isn't** in the centre of our solar system.
- 5 The Sun is a **sphere** / **circle**.
- 6 We **can** / **can't** live without the Sun.
- 7 Our plants use **sunlight** / **gas** to make food.
- 8 1,300,000 Earths can **fit** / **travel** inside the Sun.

4 OVER TO YOU: @ Answer the questions. Use the Internet to help you.

- 1 How old is the Sun?
.....
- 2 What colour is the Sun?
.....
- 3 During what month is the Sun closest to Earth?
.....
- 4 Which part of the Sun is the hottest?
.....
- 5 Which part of the Sun is the coolest?
.....