

Space Day!

Vocabulary

Asteroid - A rocky space object that can be a few feet wide to several hundred miles wide. Most asteroids in our solar system orbit in a belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Astronomer – scientist who observes and studies planets, stars, and galaxies

Comet – a big ball of dirty ice and snow in outer space

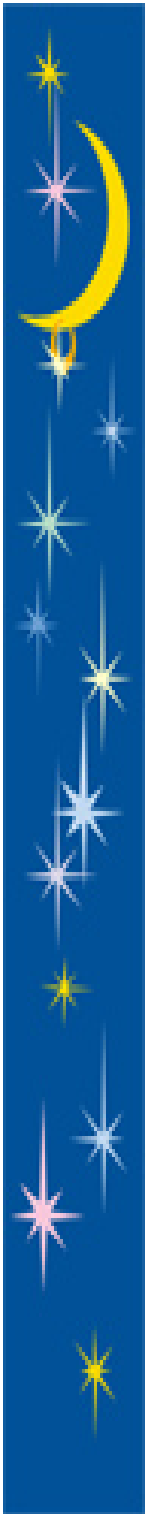
Crater – a hole caused by an object hitting the surface of a planet or moon

Galaxy – a giant collection of gas, dust, and millions or billions of stars.

Orbit – path followed by one object as it goes around another object

Meteor – an object from space that becomes glowing hot when it passes into Earth's atmosphere.

Re-entry – the return of a spacecraft into Earth's atmosphere



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Activity 1:

The Planets *BIG* and *SMALL*

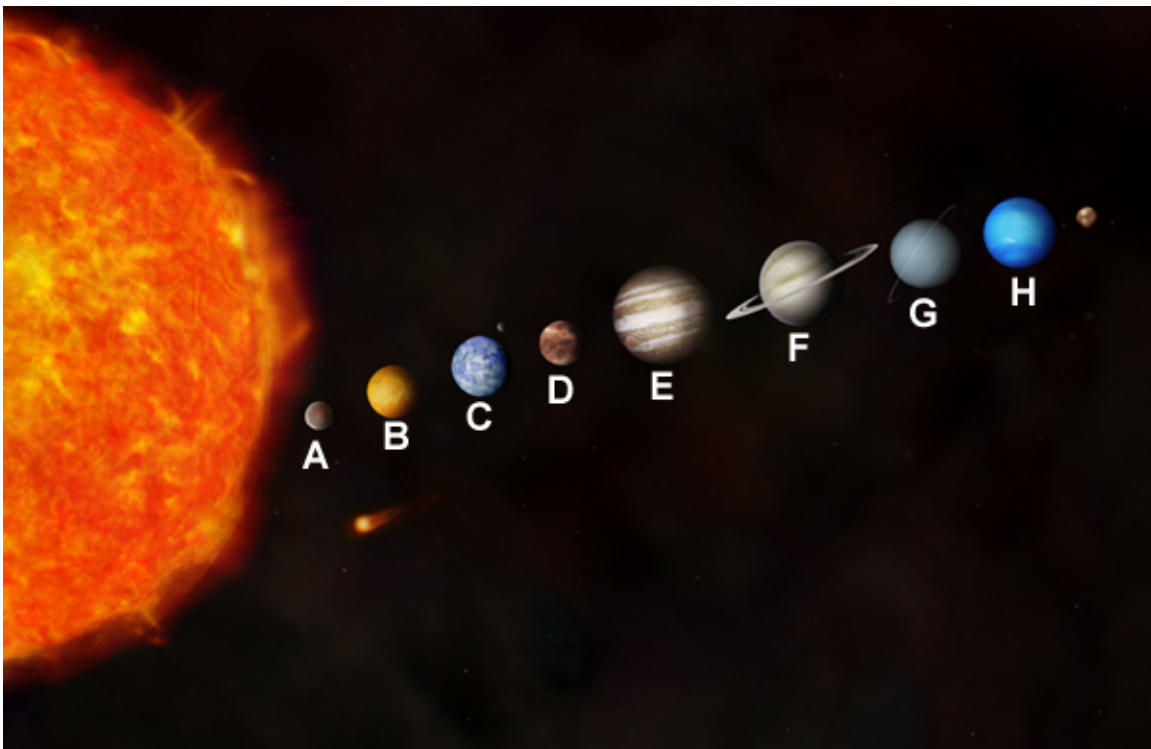
Use the first illustration to label each planet. The first picture shows how big (and little!) the planets are in relation to each other. The second picture shows where the planets are *located* in relationship to each other.

Earth
Mercury

Venus
Mars

Saturn
Jupiter

Uranus
Neptune

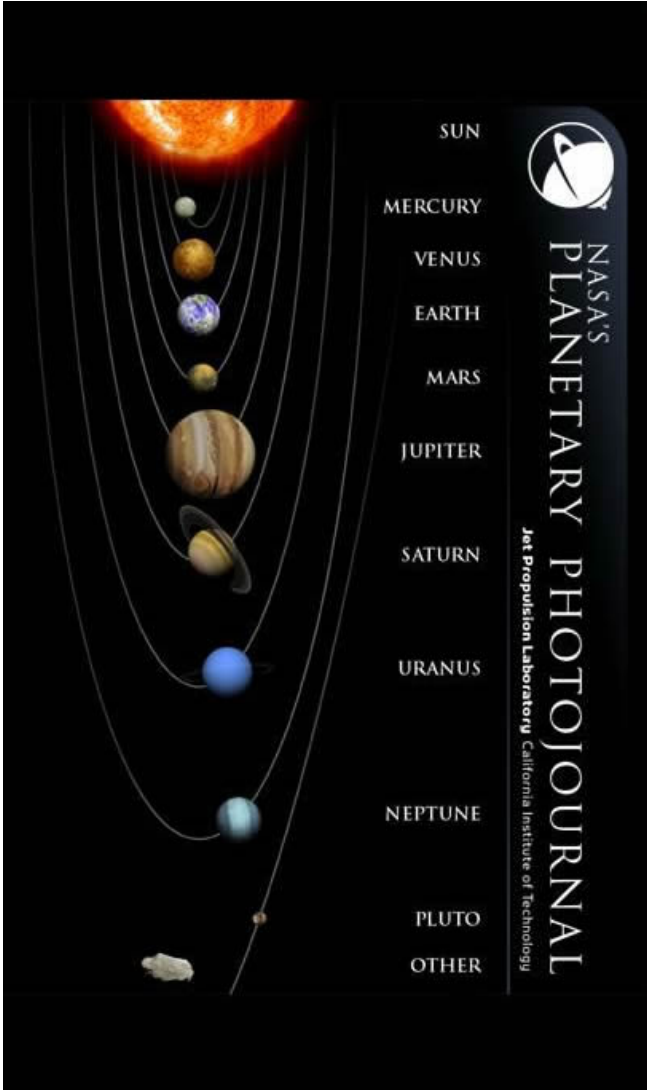


- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____
- G. _____
- H. _____

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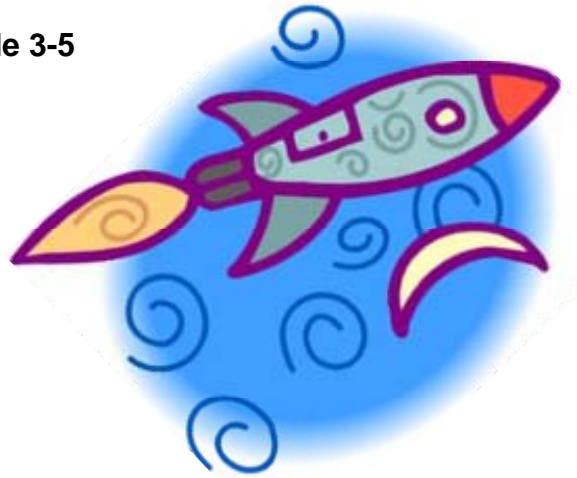
Activity 2:

Use both illustrations and prior knowledge; make 5 generalizations about the planets. *For Example: Earth is the 5th largest planet.*



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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Activity 3:

Share your answers with a small group and then the class. Did any of you make the same generalizations?

Choose 3 planets, and develop a question you for each one.

For Example: Is there water on Mercury?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Use the following website as a small group or as a class to research your questions and check your answers.

[NASA](#)
[Solar System Basics](#)

