

# *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

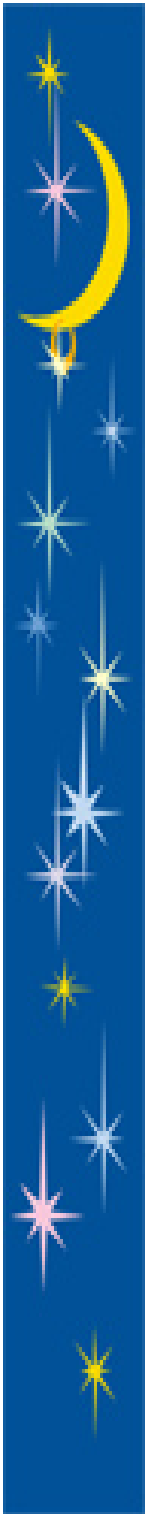
**Crater** – a hole caused by an object hitting the surface of a planet or moon

**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



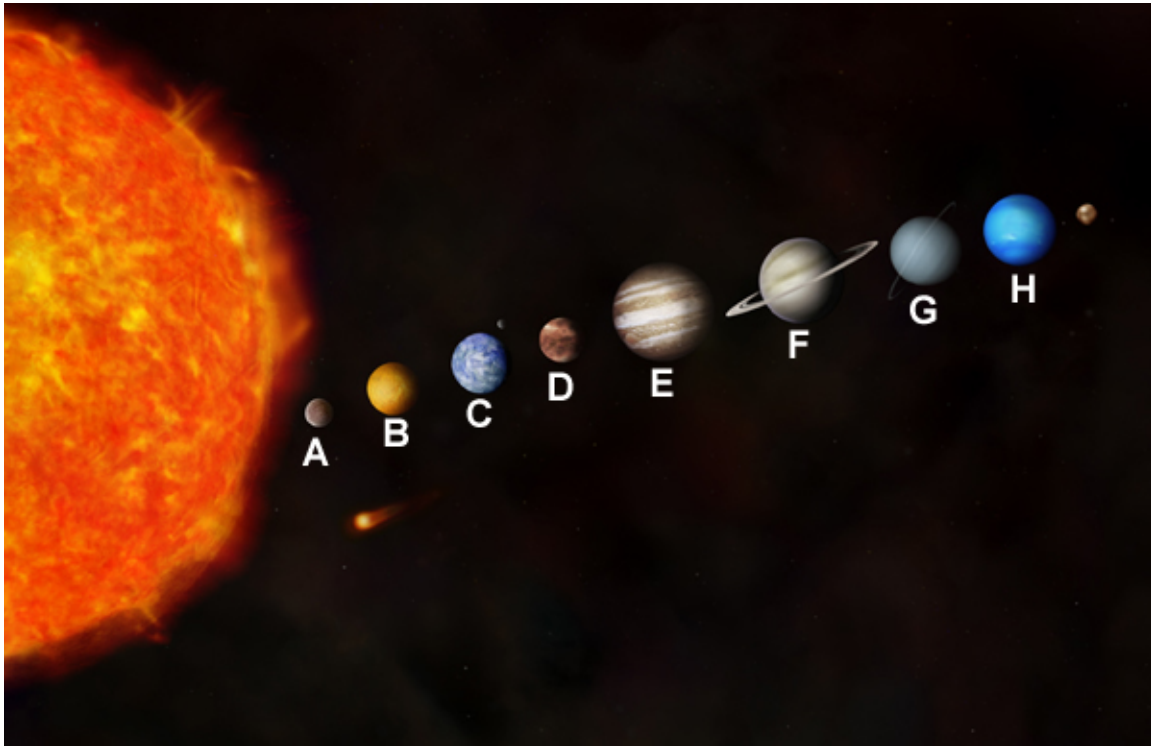
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**THE PLANETS:**

Teachers may want to show the illustrations on the projector or computer screen instead of making copies.

*The Planets **BIG** and **SMALL***

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.



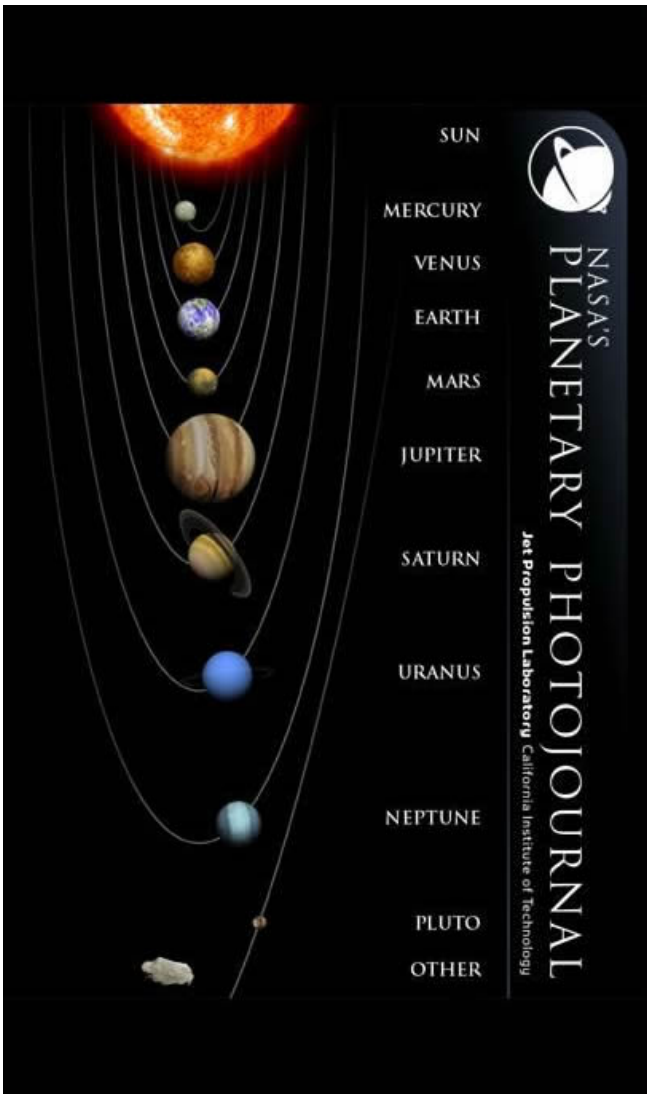
**Activity 1:** Use the first illustration to label each planet.

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. \_\_\_\_\_
- F. \_\_\_\_\_
- G. \_\_\_\_\_
- H. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Activity 2:**

Use both illustrations and prior knowledge; make 10 generalizations about the planets. *For Example: Earth is the 5th largest planet.*



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Activity 3:**

Pair Share - Team up with a partner and share answers. Did you make any generalizations that need to be checked for accuracy? Choose a few to research.

Make a list of three questions you have about the planets as a result of this activity.

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](#)

