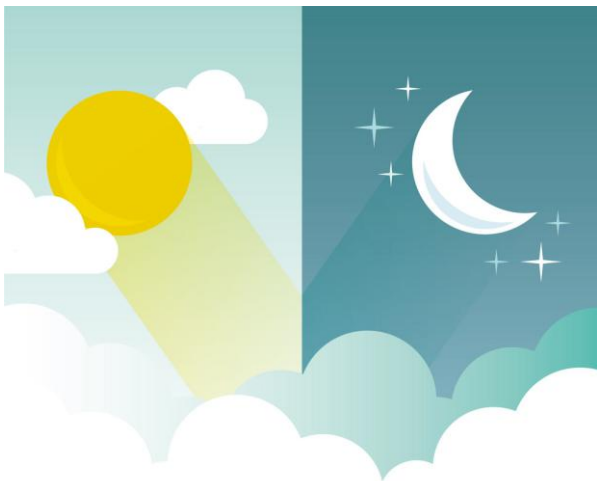


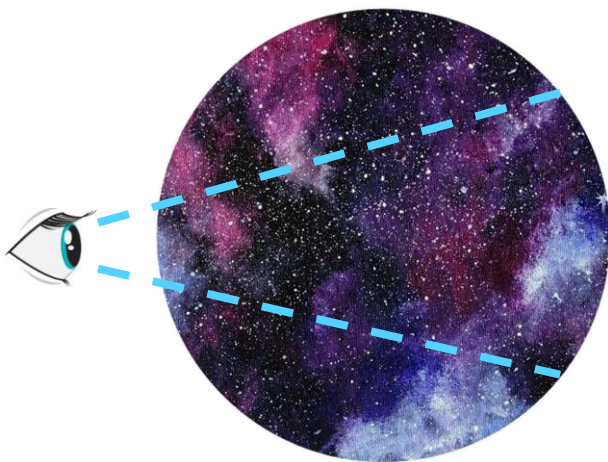
FACTS ABOUT SPACE



Space is where all the stars and planets are, including our planet Earth.



You can see some of the space when you **look up into the sky** on a clear day or night – you will see the Sun or the Moon and stars.



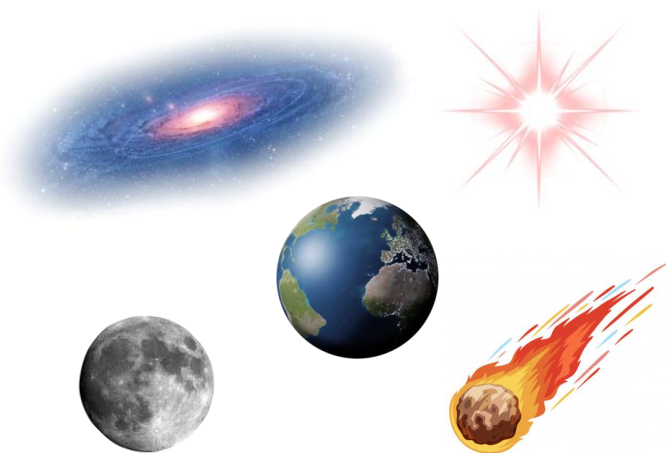
However, space is much, much **bigger** than we can see.



In fact, **nobody knows** how big space is.



Scientists that study space are called **astronomers**.



There are many things floating in space, such as **galaxies**, **stars**, **planets**, **moons** and **space rocks**.

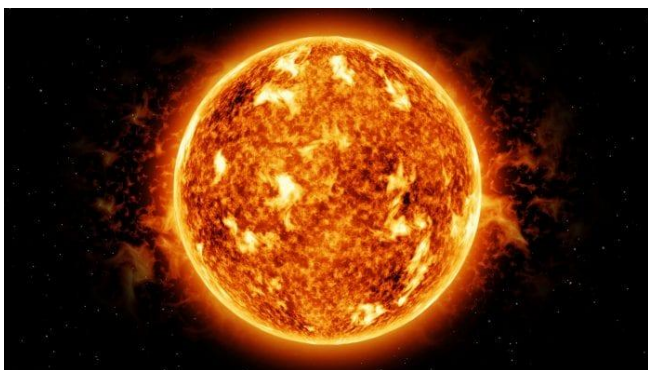
STARS



Stars are very big balls of
hot, bright, burning gas.



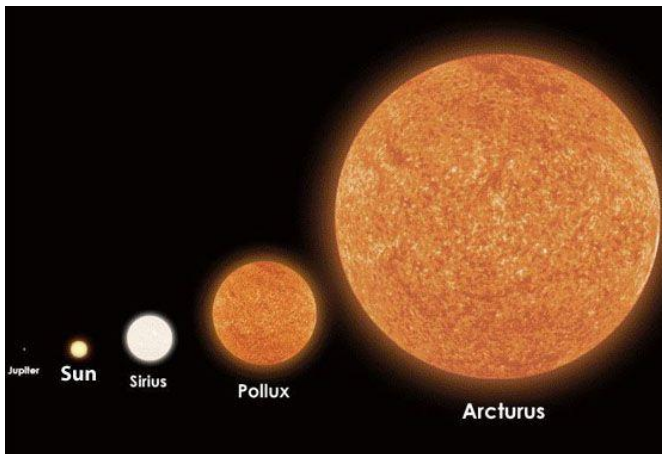
There are **too many stars** in
space to count them all.



The closest star to us is
the Sun.



The Sun looks bigger and brighter than other stars we see, because it is **much closer** to us than other stars.



But The Sun is actually **quite small** compared to other stars in space.



The biggest star that we know of in space is **UY Scuti**.

GALAXIES



A galaxy is where there are **many stars together.**



There are **many galaxies** in space.

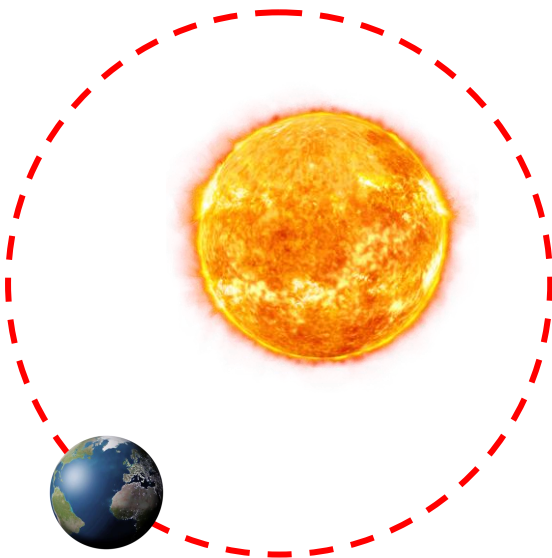


The galaxy we live in is called the **Milky Way.**

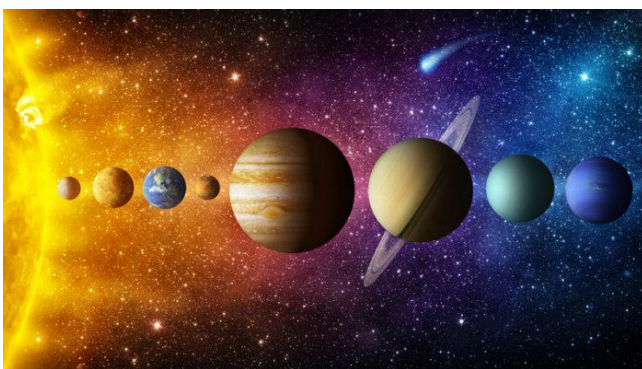
PLANETS



Planets are very **big, round** things that **circle around stars.**



Our planet **Earth** circles **around** our closest star – **the Sun.**



There are **8 planets** circling around the Sun:



Mercury



Venus



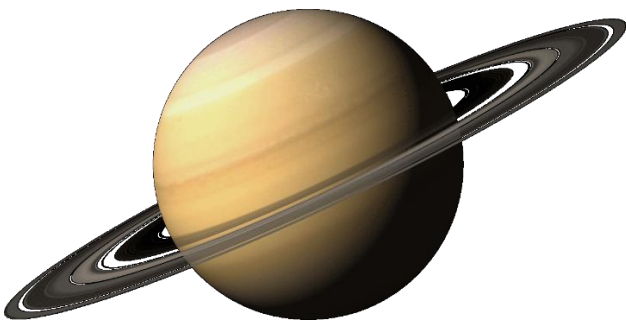
Earth



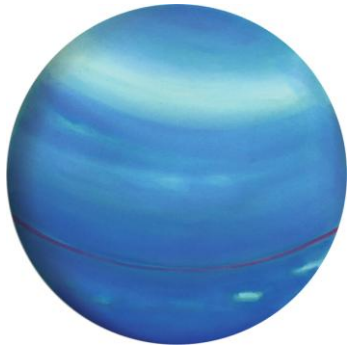
Mars



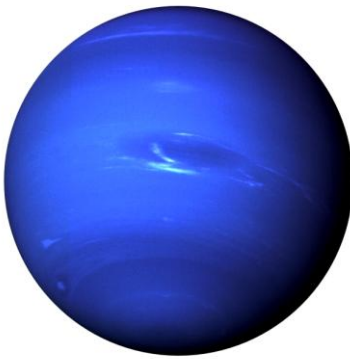
Jupiter



Saturn



Uranus

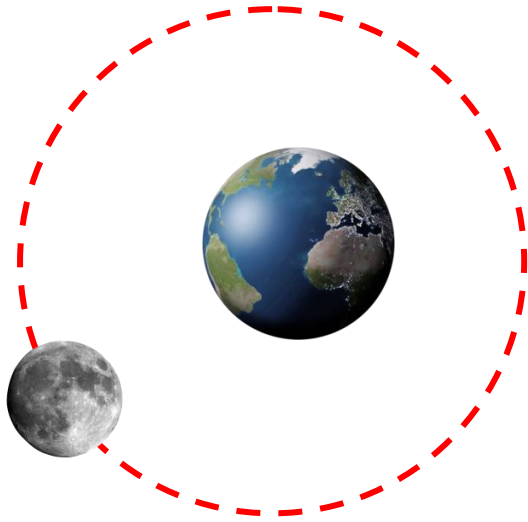


Neptune



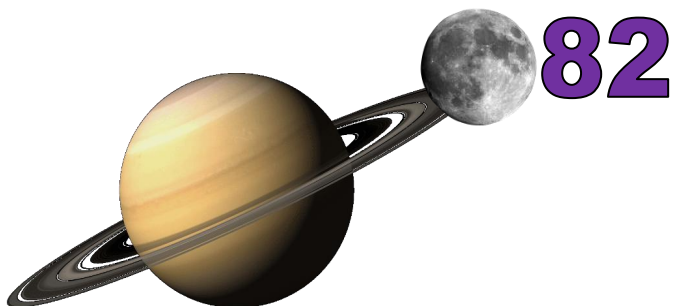
Pluto used to be a planet too, but is now called a **dwarf planet.**

MOONS



Moons are smaller planets that circle **around other planets**.

The Earth has **one moon** – the one you can see at night.

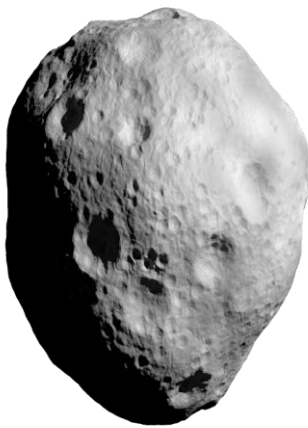


Saturn has **82 moons**.

SPACE ROCKS



There are many different kinds of **space rocks** floating in space.



Asteroids are small pieces of planets made of rock.



Comets are balls of dust and ice.

Note: comets have a **shiny tail**.



Meteoroids are even smaller leftovers of asteroids or comets.



When meteoroids fly towards the earth and burn in the sky, they are called **meteors** or “**shooting stars**”.



Have you ever seen a shooting star and **made a wish**?



When meteoroids hit the earth, they are called **meteorites**.



You may have seen some films about big space rocks falling from the sky and hitting the Earth.



However most space rocks that hit the Earth are small and not dangerous to the planet.