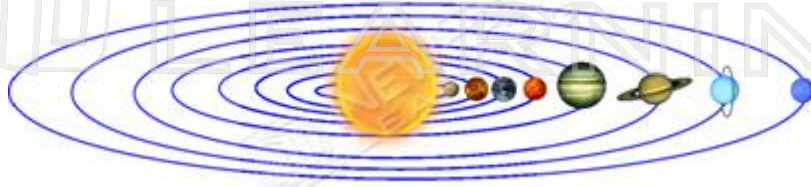# THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Planets of our solar system

A **planet** is a large body that revolves around the Sun. All planets in our solar system rotate and they all revolve around the Sun.

Let's take a look at the INNER planets:

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referred to as the "red planet" because it looks red! The iron in its surface is what gives Mars its red appearance.

Now let's look at the OUTER planets:

The fifth planet from the Sun is **Jupiter**. Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system and is made up of gases.

The sixth planet from the Sun is **Saturn**. Saturn is famous for its rings – and you might be amazed to discover that the rings are made of ice and rock!

The seventh planet from the Sun is **Uranus**. A cool fact about Uranus is that it has 26 moons.

The eighth planet from the Sun is **Neptune**. Neptune is also made up of several different types of gases.

What about Pluto?

Pluto was once considered a planet but is now classified as a dwarf planet.

Lesson Checkpoint: Name one fact
about each of the 8 planets.

Orbits of the Planets

Each planet in the solar systems takes different amounts of time to orbit around the Sun. The farther away the planet is from the sun, the longer it takes them to revolve around the Sun than those closer to the
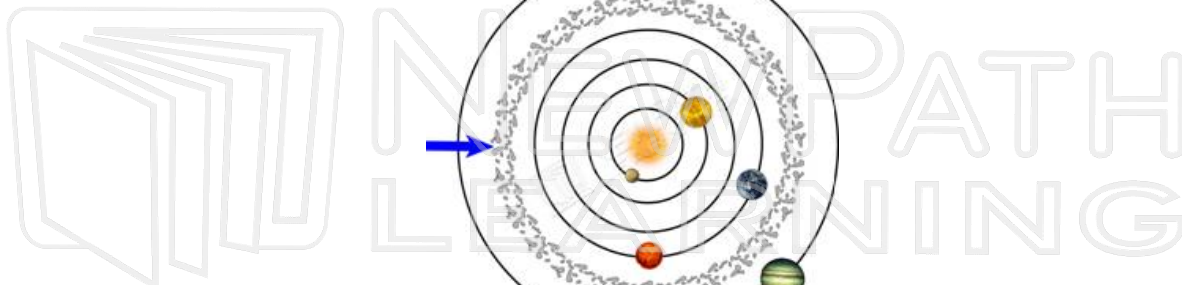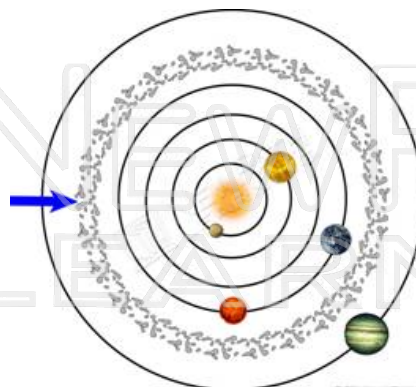
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thousands of asteroids, which are pieces of rock that vary in size and also orbit around the Sun. Some asteroids are less than a mile wide and some are over 400 miles wide!

Comets, Meteors, and Meteorites

Comets are made of ice and rock. They have four parts:
- a nucleus which is the solid portion of the comet and is made of dust and ice,
- a coma which is a cloud of dust and evaporated gases, and
- an ion tail and
- a dust tail.

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