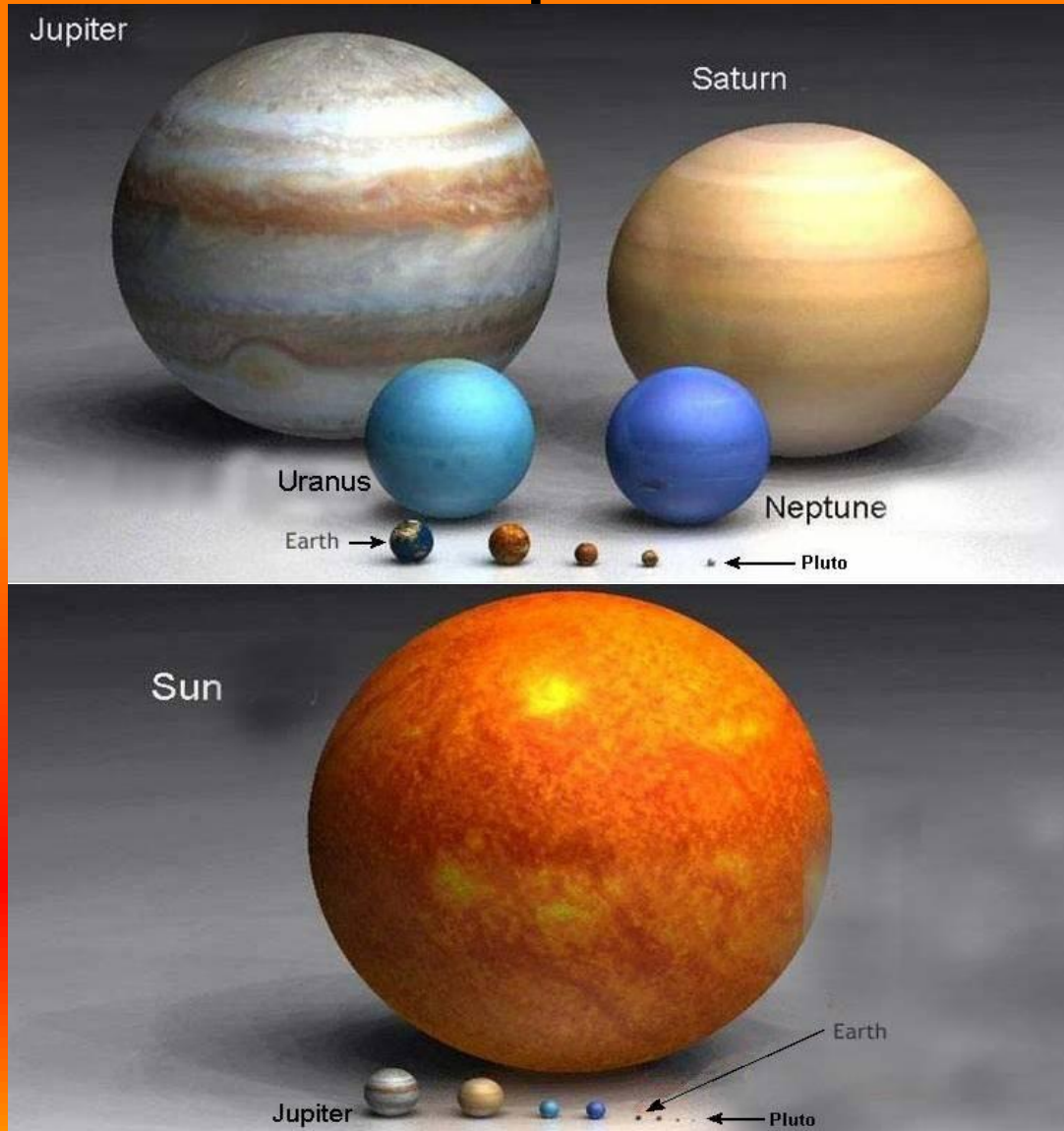


The solar system

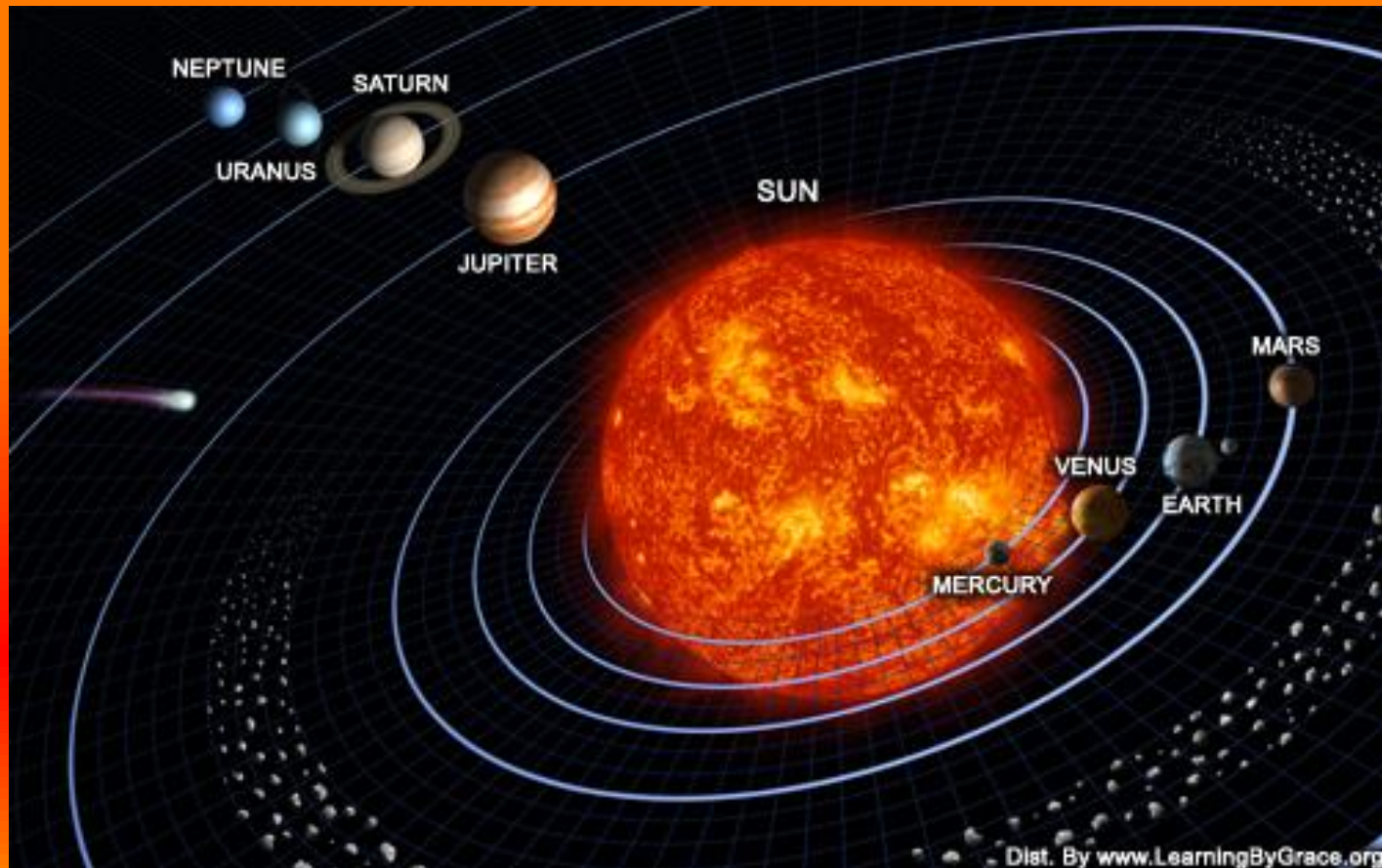


Size comparisons



The sun looks enormous but, compared to the giant and hypergiant suns, it is only a 'tiddler'

A diagram



In fact the sun is far larger but if it was in proportion on the diagram it would fill the picture

The Solar System's Got Planets

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and tonight's special guest is Simon Cowell. Now Simon let us have your votes on the planets

“ Well I think Mercury was rubbish; no atmosphere, it is hot, arid and one day on Mercury is 58 days and 12 hours Earth time. Venus is just plain dreadful. Its day lasts longer than its year, it's working day is ridiculously long. A surface temperature of 500c and a deadly poisonous atmosphere. It tried a bit too hard by orbiting in the opposite direction from all the other planets. Earth definitely appeals. Nicely compact at 12,700k diameter, it has a liveable atmosphere, it's a lovely blue from space and it's the only planet with chocolate. It's into the next round. Mars was ok but its moons were pretty insignificant, only a few meters across. It' into the next round – just. I Also it is a bit bare, not much life there. Jupiter was really just big and showy; 63 moons were a good touch. Ok, it is the largest planet in the solar system, but apart from its spot it was quite dull and very, very windy. One year on Jupiter is 11.8 of ours and it is 140.000 km across. Saturn I liked. You have to love the fabulous rings and it even has an moon with an orange atmosphere named Titan At 120,500km across its day is only 10 hours 38 minutes long. I need longer than that to get a good criticism in but it is definitely into the next round Uranus was definitely not for me: I like a good moon as much as the next man but 20 or more is too many for what is basically a pretty titchy gas giant at 51.118 km across. Freezing cold and not a very pretty blue What can I say about Neptune? Yet another gas giant; these boys have even more gas than me. Cold with 2000km an hour hydrogen, helium and methane blowing a never ending gale. Even smaller than Uranus at 49,528. Sorry Uranus and Neptune, your are both out. And so, the top three are: (drum role)

Top three planets

- 1) It had to be Earth. It's the only planet in our solar system that can support life
- 2) Saturn next. Fabulous rings, an orange moon and it only has 1.16 times as much gravity as us.
- 3) Mars. Hasn't rained for 4 billion years and it is -30c. But but it does have a 25km high volcano.

Good night and thank you for watching

