

**the SOLAR SYSTEM**

This is our solar system. It has nine planets. All the planets revolve around a star. We call this star the sun. Each planet follows its own path around the sun. We call this path an orbit. The sun gives heat and light to the planets.

The closest planet to the sun is Mercury. It is the hottest planet in the solar system.

The farthest planet from the sun is Pluto. It is the coldest planet in the solar system.

The biggest planet is Jupiter.

The smallest planet is Mercury.

We live on planet Earth. Planet Earth is between Venus and Mars. The Earth takes 365 days to complete one orbit (one trip around the sun). In this way we measure a year.

## Reading big numbers

a. Can you find the following numbers on the chart? Mark them with a circle.

- \* twelve thousand seven hundred and fifty-six
- \* six hundred and eighty seven
- \* one hundred twenty thousand, five hundred and forty
- \* five thousand and eight hundred
- \* two hundred and forty-eight

b. Write the following numbers from the chart in letters:

- 12,390 .....
- .....
- 165 .....
- .....
- 49,000 .....
- .....
- 6,787 .....
- .....
- 365 .....
- .....

## THE PLANETS

Name	Diameter (kilometres)	Number of satellites	Time it takes to go round the sun (year)	Speed of the orbit round the sun (kilometres/second)
Mercury	4,990	---	88 days	48
Venus	12,390	---	225 days	35
Earth	12,756	1	365 days	30
Mars	6,787	2	687 days	24
Jupiter	142,980	63	12 years	13
Saturn	120,540	49	29 years	9
Uranus	49,000	27	84 years	7
Neptune	47,000	13	165 years	5
Pluto	5,800	1	248 years	5

### Comparatives and superlatives

Look at the chart and circle the right answer:

- a. Uranus is *smaller/ larger* than Mars.
- b. Neptune has *more/ fewer* satellites than the Earth.
- c. Jupiter is the *smallest/ largest* planet of the Solar System.
- d. Saturn is *slower/ faster* to go round the sun than Venus.
- e. A year on Earth is *shorter/ longer* than a year in Mars.
- f. Mercury is the *slowest/ fastest* planet to go round the sun.
- g. Jupiter is the planet with *the most/ the fewest* satellites.
- h. Pluto is *smaller/ larger* than Venus.

### Questions with how ...

Look at the chart and answer the following questions:

1. How many satellites does Saturn have?
2. How many satellites does Mercury have?
3. How long does it take Venus to go round the sun?
4. How long does it take Jupiter to go round the sun?
5. How fast does Mars go round the sun?
6. How fast does Uranus go round the sun?