

Science nationalgeographic com science space solar system





Overview

What are some facts about the Solar System?

Learn facts about the solar system's genesis, plus its planets, moons, and asteroids. Space is sometimes called “the final frontier,” a phrase popularized by the iconic Star Trek television series. But it is an apt description of humanity’s scant understanding of the planets, stars, and other celestial bodies beyond Earth.

Where is the Solar System located?

The solar system is located in the Milky Way's Orion star cluster. Only 15% of stars in the galaxy host planetary systems, and one of those stars is our own sun. Revolving around the sun are eight planets. The planets are divided into two categories based on their composition, terrestrial and Jovian.

Do we understand the parts of our Solar System better than others?

Although, we understand the parts of our own solar system better than those outside of it, we still have a lot to learn. Watch these National Geographic 101 videos to learn more about our cosmic neighborhood. The sun keeps the planets in its orbit with a tremendous gravitational force.

How many stars are in the Solar System?

While there are many star systems, including at least 200 billion other stars in our galaxy, there is only one solar system. That's because our sun is known by its Latin name, Sol. The solar system includes everything that is gravitationally drawn into the sun's orbit.

What is the Solar System made up of?

Our solar system is made up of the sun and all the amazing objects that travel around it. The universe is filled with billions of star systems. Located inside galaxies, these cosmic arrangements are made up of at least one star and all the objects that travel around it, including planets, dwarf planets, moons,



asteroids, comets, and meteoroids.

What does National Geographic do in space?

Our work in Space encompasses projects dedicated to exploring and understanding the universe and supporting National Geographic Explorers who examine and illuminate our world and what lies beyond it.



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Interstellar space even weirder than expected, NASA probe reveals

2 saw as it crossed the threshold--and it's giving humans new insight into some of the big mysteries of our solar system. that fill both interstellar space and the solar system 's

Interplanetary Exploration

Voyager 1 is at the very fringe of our solar system. It is traveling 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometers) a day and, in the next decade, may pass beyond the frontier of the sun's heliosphere



Solar System Exploration

The solar system has one star, eight planets, five dwarf planets, at least 290 moons, more than 1.3 million asteroids, and about 3,900 comets. We mean waaaay out there in our solar system - where the forecast might not be quite what you think. Let's look at the

New Planet Found in Our Solar System?

Once considered the ninth planet in our system, the dwarf planet Pluto, for example, is one of the largest Kuiper belt objects, at about 1,400 miles (2,300 kilometers) wide. Dozens of the other



Did Pluto ever actually stop being a planet? Experts debate.

It's been 18 years since Pluto's celestial status was called into question--yet the matter seems far from settled. We asked experts from both sides to make their case.

Pluto Information and Facts , National Geographic

Pluto 101 Pluto is one of the most mysterious and controversial celestial objects in the solar system. The world was introduced to dwarf planets in 2006, when petite Pluto was stripped of its

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[The difference between asteroids and comets](#)

Today, most asteroids in our solar system orbit the sun in a region located between Mars and Jupiter called the asteroid belt. Many astronomers believe the belt is filled with primordial material





[Planet Uranus facts and information](#)

Learn more about the seventh planet in our solar system. Skip to content Newsletters Subscribe Menu 3:54 Uranus 101 Find out fascinating facts about Uranus, including the curious origin of the



Solar System's "Nose" Found; Aimed at Constellation Scorpius

A NASA spacecraft has uncovered the solar system's "nose," which points in the direction our sun is moving through the Milky Way galaxy, astronomers say. The finding is based on newly released data

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[Moons Information and Facts](#)

Learn more about the moons in our solar system from National Geographic. Skip to content Newsletters Subscribe Observations with the Hubble Space Telescope also indicate Europa has a tenuous



These Are Some of the Solar System's Biggest Surprises

The universe is full of surprises, but two discoveries in the outer solar system are dominating astronomy news this week. First, astronomers reported yesterday that they have found a distant, tiny



[Exploring the Solar System , Create WebQuest](#)

It is time to take a tour of the Solar System! In this WebQuest, you will be acting as a virtual space traveler who learns about planets, moons, and other interplanetary objects. Your mission will be to gather facts on our neighbors in the solar system and ...

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A full moon by any other name One of the most dramatic sights in the night sky--and inspiration for poets, artists, and lovers for millennia--full moons captivate us like nothing else.Full moons

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Battery Cooling Method
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[Earth's moon, facts and information](#)

There are more than 190 moons orbiting the planets and asteroids in our solar system, and Earth's moon is the fifth largest of the lot. It spans about 2,160 miles across, nearly a third the



New object beyond Pluto hints at mysterious 'Planet X'

The solar system's retinue of known, faraway worlds has gained another member: a small, icy body that takes 40,000 years to plod once around the sun, traveling farther away from our home star



What is a solar eclipse--and when is the next one?

What they found is that solar eclipses happen only during a new moon, when the moon moves between Earth and the sun. But given there's a new moon every month, why aren't solar eclipses more common

The origins of the universe facts and information

In the billions of years since, stars, galaxies, and clusters of galaxies have formed and re-formed--eventually yielding our home galaxy, the Milky Way, and our cosmic home, the solar system



[The solar system--facts and information](#)

September 15, 2018. o 7 min read. Compared with the billions of other stars in the universe, the sun is unremarkable. But for Earth and the other planets that revolve around it, the sun is a





Our Focus , Space

From our solar system to deep space, from the origin of the universe to the evolution of the Earth's atmosphere, from meteorites to space debris, Explorers are unraveling mysteries, testing new ideas, and sparking curiosity and awe.



[Orbital Objects Information and Facts](#)

Learn more about satellites, space junk, and other objects floating in orbits from National Geographic. Skip to content Newsletters Subscribe Menu On March 1, 2002, space shuttle Columbia and STS

[Voyager 1 Leaves Solar System, NASA Confirms](#)

Solar blasts reveal that NASA's far-flung Voyager 1 spacecraft passed into interstellar space on August 25, 2012. One key to identifying this boundary is the difference in the density of charged



Neutron Stars & How They Cause Gravitational Waves

Small but Mighty Despite their small diameters--about 12.5 miles (20 kilometers)--neutron stars boast nearly 1.5 times the mass of our sun, and are thus incredibly dense. Just a sugar cube of





Venus Information and Facts , National Geographic

Together with Mercury, it's one of the few planets in our solar system without a moon. And like Uranus, it turns on its axis in the opposite direction to the rest of our celestial family.



Next Virtual Field Trip Destination? Our Solar System ...

Explore outer space with this National Geographic Virtual Field Trip! Meet an astrophysicist searching the stars for distant planets, a nonprofit founder making space accessible to young people, and the co-creators of a ...

[Mars, the red planet: Facts and information](#)

Mars has not only the highest highs, but also some of the solar system's lowest lows. Southeast of Olympus Mons lies Valles Marineris, the red planet's iconic canyon system. The gorges span



[The Sun--Living With a Stormy Star](#)

Our star has been slow to give up its secrets. To study the sun is to enter a realm that is surpassingly weird. They call it "good seeing." Squinting up into the luminous blue morning 8,000 feet



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