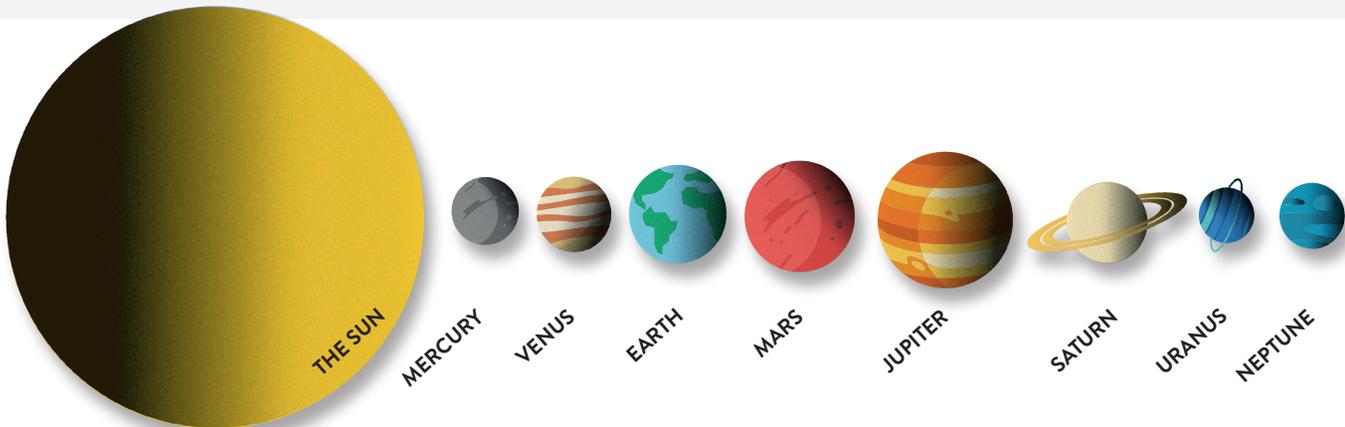


## KEY FACTS

- The universe was probably created by the Big Bang, about 13.7 million years ago.
- The Universe contains billions of galaxies, each containing millions or billions of stars.
- The space between the stars and galaxies is largely empty.
- The Milky Way is the galaxy which contains our solar system
- The planets of our solar system, in order of their distance away from the Sun are: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
- Planets are made of rock whereas stars are made of gases, mostly helium and hydrogen.
- The sun is a dwarf star and therefore also made of gas.
- The moon is made of rock but is not large enough to be considered a planet .
- The Solar System also contains many other objects such as the Asteroid Belt.
- Photographic and other evidence shows that, like other planets and the Moon, the Earth is approximately spherical in shape.
- The Earth orbits the Sun once every 365 days. This orbit determines our seasons and our year.
- The Earth spins on its axis once every 24 hours. This determines our night and day.



## WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY



ASKING QUESTIONS



PRESENTING FINDINGS



WRITING SCIENTIFICALLY

## SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE



**Mae Carol Jemison** is an American engineer, physician and NASA astronaut, who became the first African American woman to travel in space.

## KEY VOCABULARY



- Milky Way:** The galaxy of which the sun and the solar system are a part.
- Solar System:** A series of planets which orbit our sun.
- Galaxy:** A collection of gas, dust, and billions of stars and their solar systems.
- Centric:** Situated at the centre.
- Geocentric:** With the Earth at the centre.
- Heliocentric:** With the Sun at the centre.
- Orbit:** The path of a planet or moon around another celestial object.
- Axis:** A real or imaginary line on which something rotates, or a straight line
- Asteroid:** a small rock in space
- Meteorite:** a piece of rock from space that has landed on Earth.