



Places in Space

Space is an exciting place! Our solar system is in space. It is made up of the sun and the eight planets that travel around the sun. Our solar system also has moons, stars, and other space objects.

In the Center

The **sun** is at the center of our solar system. The sun is a hot, bright **star**. A star is a ball of hot gas. It gives off heat and light. The sun is the star closest to Earth. That is why it looks different from other stars. Most stars look tiny and can be seen only at night because they are so far away.

Around the Sun

A **planet** is a large ball made of rock or gas. Eight planets make up our solar system. You live on one of them—Earth! The others are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Each planet moves in a path around the sun. The path is called an **orbit**.

Around Earth

Earth has one **moon**. It travels in an orbit around Earth. The moon is made of rock. It is covered with deep holes called craters. The moon may look as though it gives off light, but it does not. It looks bright when it reflects light from the sun.

Space Facts!

- The sun is so large that it could hold a million Earths.
- Earth is called the Blue Planet because it is covered in so much water.
- Some planets have many moons. Jupiter has the most. It has more than 60 moons.

1. What is the sun?

- A. a planet
- B. a star
- C. a moon
- D. an asteroid

2. What does the author describe in the passage?

- A. the objects in our solar system
- B. why Earth only has one moon
- C. the different stars in the universe
- D. how the moon got its craters

3. Our sun does not look tiny like other stars because it is the closest star to Earth. What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?

- A. "The sun is at the center of our solar system. The sun is a hot, bright star."
- B. "A star is a ball of hot gas. It gives off heat and light."
- C. "The sun is so large that it could hold a million Earths."
- D. "The sun is the star closest to Earth. That is why it looks different from other stars."