

SPACE Reading Comprehension – Key Stage 1 – Year 2

The Sun and the Planets

The Sun is a big, hot star at the centre of our solar system. It is very bright and gives us light and warmth. Without the Sun, Earth would be very cold and dark.

There are eight planets that go around the Sun. They are called Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Each planet is different.

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun. It is very small and has lots of craters. Venus is a bit like Earth, but it is much hotter. Earth is where we live, and it has land, water, and air.

Mars is known as the 'Red Planet' because of its red colour. Jupiter is the biggest planet, and it has a big storm called the Great Red Spot. Saturn is famous for its beautiful rings, which are made of ice and rocks.

Uranus and Neptune are the farthest planets from the Sun. Uranus spins on its side, and Neptune has very strong winds. Each planet is special and has something unique about it.



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1. What is the Sun?
2. Name the eight planets in our solar system.
3. Which planet is the closest to the Sun?
4. Why is Mars called the 'Red Planet'?
5. What makes Saturn special?
6. What is unique about Uranus and Neptune?

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MARK SCHEME

1. The Sun is a big, hot star at the centre of our solar system.
2. The eight planets in our solar system are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.
3. Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun.
4. Mars is called the 'Red Planet' because of its red colour.
5. Saturn is special because it has beautiful rings made of ice and rocks.
6. Uranus is unique because it spins on its side, and Neptune has very strong winds.