


The Solar System

Profile of the Planets

	Mean distance from Sun (million km)	Mass (Earth=1)	Period of orbit (Earth years)	Equatorial diameter (km)	Number of known satellites
	57.9	0.055	0.24	4,878	0
Venus	108.2	0.815	0.62	12,104	0
Earth	149.6	1.0	1.00	12,756	1
Mars	227.9	0.107	1.88	6,787	2
Jupiter	778.3	317.8	11.86	142,800	16
Saturn	1,427	95.2	29.46	120,000	20
Uranus	2,871	14.5	84.01	51,118	15
Neptune	4,497	17.1	164.80	49,528	8

Our solar system is a tiny part of one of the billions of galaxies that make up the universe. We are about 28,000 light years from the centre of our galaxy, the Milky Way.

The solar system is thought to be approximately 4500 million years old. It has a central sun with the planets in orbit around it. Some of the planets have satellites (or moons) orbiting around them.