

# Space physics

## Our solar system

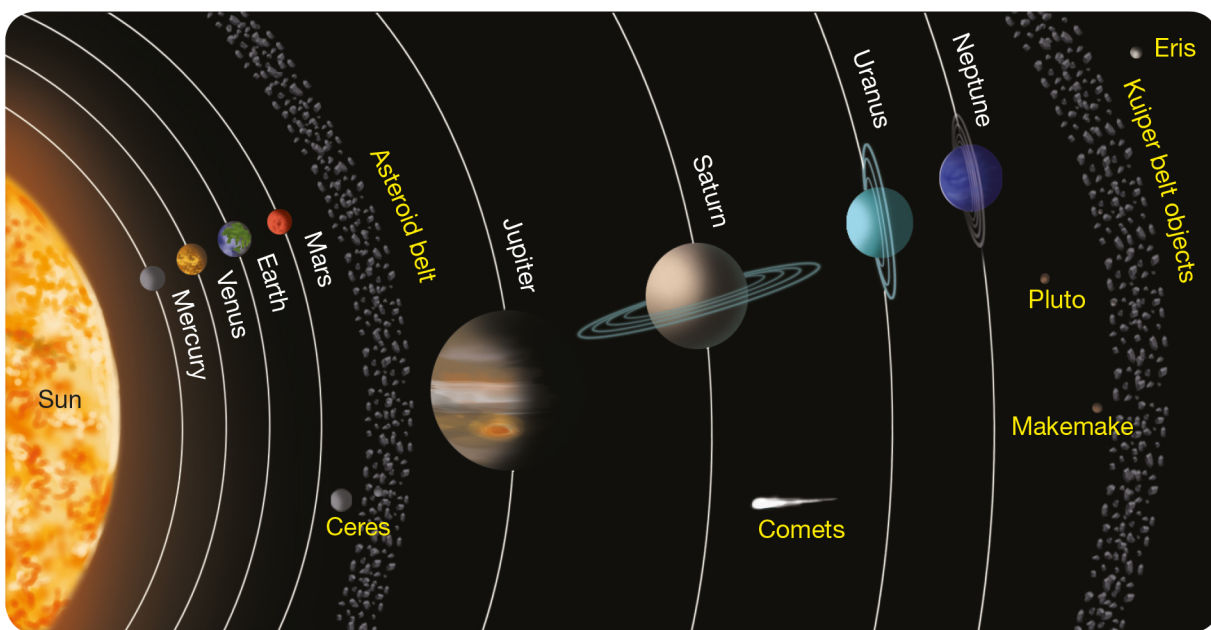
Our **solar system** is a small part of the Milky Way galaxy. A galaxy is a massive cluster of **stars** and their planets. The Milky Way galaxy is estimated to contain 100 billion stars.

Our solar system is made up of one star (the Sun), eight planets and the dwarf planets that orbit around the Sun.



**NAIL IT!**

Remember that Pluto is a dwarf planet, *not* a planet.



Objects that orbit around a planet are called satellites.

**Artificial satellites** are man-made devices that orbit the Earth and other planets to perform useful tasks, like communication. The Hubble Space Telescope is an artificial satellite that we use to look at stars.

**Natural satellites**, often just called moons, are naturally formed objects that orbit a planet. The Earth's only natural satellite is the Moon.

Big planets can have many moons. Jupiter has at least 67 known moons.

Planets and their natural and artificial satellites are kept in their orbits by the **forces of gravity** between the planets and the satellites (and between the Sun and the planets).



The Hubble Telescope



Our Moon