



# The Solar System – Answers

The solar **system** is the gravitationally bound system consisting of the Sun and the objects that orbit it. The solar **system** formed 4.6 billion **years** ago.

There are **eight planets** that directly orbit the **Sun**: **Mercury**, **Venus**, **Earth**, **Mars**, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. There are other objects that orbit the sun, however, they are known as **dwarf planets** and small solar system bodies.

The solar system is in the Orion Arm, 26,000 light years from the centre of the Milky **Way**. The four smaller inner planets are terrestrial planets. They are composed of rock and **metal**. The **four** outer planets are giant planets. **Jupiter** and **Saturn** are gas giants, being made up of hydrogen and helium. The **two** outer **planets** - Uranus and **Neptune** - are ice giants, being composed of substances with high melting points.