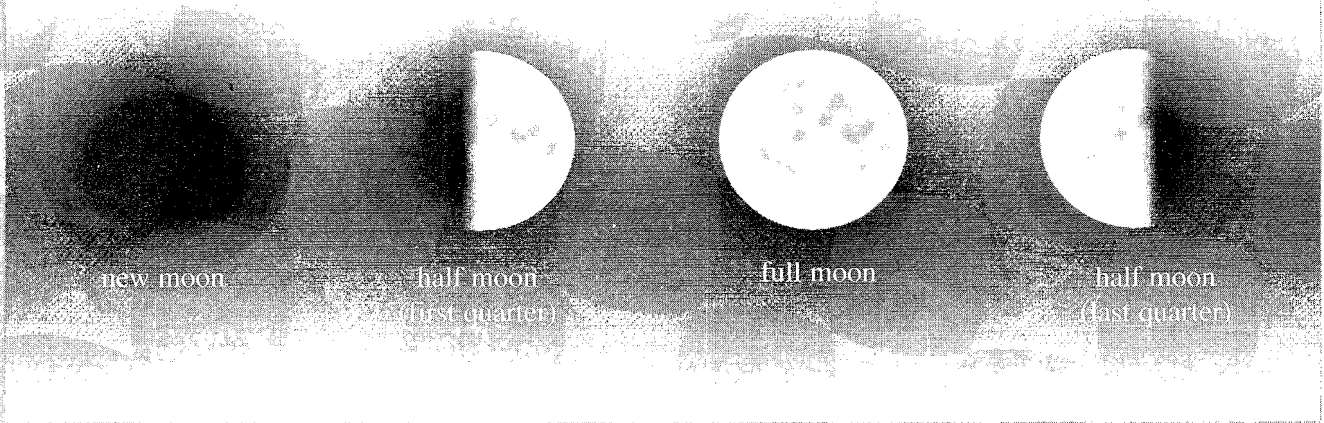


# THE MOON

The moon is a satellite. We sometimes see it in the sky at night. It seems to be quite close, but the moon is approximately 384,000 kilometres from Earth.

The moon orbits Earth in 29 days. We call this period a lunar month. There are 13 lunar months in a year.

The moon appears to have different shapes during the lunar month. These are called the phases of the moon. We don't see the moon at the beginning of a lunar month – we call this the new moon. We can see half of the moon seven days later. We see a full moon in the middle of the month and we see a half moon again during the last days of the lunar month.



## Complete the sentences according to the text.

1. The moon is ..... away from Earth.
2. The moon takes ..... to travel around Earth.
3. There are 13 ..... in a year.
4. We see a ..... in the middle of the lunar month.

## There are 13 lunar months, but the months we use are called calendar months. Learn this poem about the months.

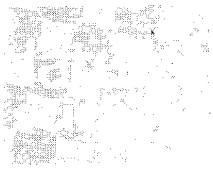
*Thirty days have September,  
April, June and November.  
All the rest have thirty-one,  
Except February alone,  
Which has twenty-eight days clear,  
And twenty-nine each leap year.*

## Let's Investigate

Use an encyclopedia or the Internet.  
Find out what a lunar eclipse is. Write a short explanation.



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.....  
.....



# THE SOLAR SYSTEM

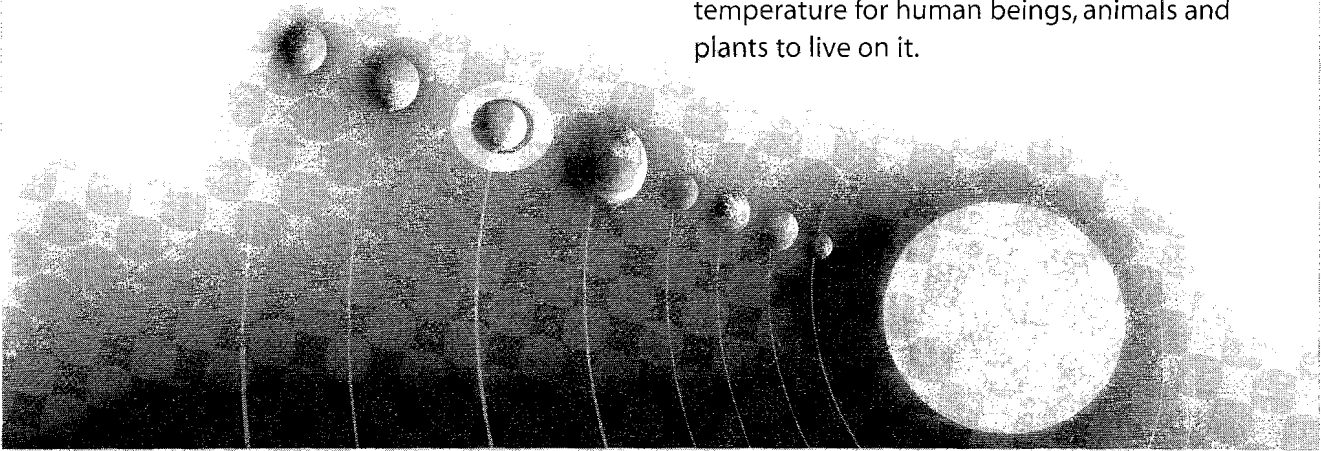
The solar system consists of the sun, the eight planets and other celestial bodies such as comets, meteors and asteroids. The sun is a star and is the centre of the solar system.

The planets in the solar system are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Until recently, Pluto was considered the ninth planet. However, in 2007 its classification was changed.

Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are close to the sun and are called the inner planets. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are far from the sun and are called the outer planets.

Mercury is the nearest planet to the sun. It takes Mercury 88 days to orbit the sun. Neptune has got the longest orbit and takes 165 years to go around the sun. Earth, our planet, takes only one year to complete its orbit.

Sometimes Earth is called Mother Earth because it is the only planet in our solar system with sufficient oxygen, water and a suitable temperature for human beings, animals and plants to live on it.



### Answer the questions.

1. How many planets are there in the solar system?  
.....
2. What else is in the solar system?  
.....
3. Why are Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars called inner planets?  
.....
4. How long does it take Mercury to orbit the sun?  
.....

### Why do you think we cannot live on other planets?

.....

.....

.....

### Let's Investigate



Use an encyclopedia or the Internet. Write a few sentences about the Milky Way.

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