

The solar system

Read about the solar system. Then label the planets, sort them and answer.

The **solar system** is the Sun and everything that orbits it. The Sun is a **star**: a giant ball of hot, glowing gas. Eight planets orbit the Sun. The four inner planets are small and rocky. The four outer planets are giants made mostly of gas and ice. Venus is the hottest. Rocky asteroids orbit between Mars and Jupiter.

① Label the planets in order from the Sun. Use the word bank.

PLANETS
Earth
Jupiter
Mars
Mercury
Neptune
Saturn
Uranus
Venus

② Sort the planets.

Inner, rocky planets: _____

Outer, giant planets: _____

③ Use the diagram and the facts to answer.

1. Which planet is the largest? _____
2. Which planet is closest to the Sun? _____
3. Which planet is the hottest, because its thick atmosphere traps heat? _____
4. Which planet is known as the red planet? _____
5. Which planet has the brightest, widest rings? _____
6. What lies between the inner planets and the outer planets? _____