

Our solar system consists of our star, the Sun, and everything bound to it by gravity - the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune; dwarf planets such as Pluto; dozens of moons; and millions of asteroids, comets, and meteoroids.

The most famous star in our sky is the Sun, the source of the heat and light that powers the solar system. It's a G-type star that formed some 4.6 billion years ago. The Sun is a yellow-white dwarf that will continue its hydrogen-burning phase (that is, "live" on the Main Sequence) for another 5 or so billion years.

Stars are giant balls of hot gas - mostly hydrogen, with some helium and small amounts of other elements. Every star has its own life cycle, ranging from a few million to trillions of years, and its properties change as it ages.

The Sun is a 4.5 billion-year-old yellow dwarf star - a hot glowing ball of hydrogen and helium - at the center of our solar system. It's about 93 million miles (150 million kilometers) from Earth and it's our solar system's only star.

The Short Answer: Our Sun is an average sized star: there are smaller stars and larger stars, even up to 100 times larger. Many other solar systems have multiple suns, while ours just has one. Our Sun is 864,000 miles in diameter and 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit on the surface. Credit: ESA/NASA.

The Sun is the star at the center of the Solar System. It is a massive, nearly perfect sphere of hot plasma, heated to incandescence by nuclear fusion reactions in its core, radiating the energy from its surface mainly as visible light and infrared radiation with 10% at ultraviolet energies.

The solar system has eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. There are five officially recognized dwarf planets in our solar system: Ceres, Pluto, Haumea, Makemake, and Eris. Get the Facts.

Solar storms frequently launch plasma and radiation into the Solar System. If an intense storm hit Earth, it could damage satellites, power grids, and communication networks. We study the Sun to learn about how stars work, and to help protect our civilization from solar storms.

The Sun is the Solar System's star and by far its most massive component. Its large mass (332,900 Earth masses), [75] which comprises 99.86% of all the mass in the Solar System, [76] produces temperatures and densities in its core high enough to sustain nuclear fusion of hydrogen into helium. [77]

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Stars in the solar system

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