

This digital collage brings together our solar system and points beyond in one view.

How many planets are in the solar system? How did it form in the Milky Way galaxy? Learn facts about the solar system's genesis, plus its planets, moons, and asteroids.

We can view the solar connection within the solar system as a chain of individual links:

Our solar system includes the Sun, eight planets, five officially named dwarf planets, hundreds of moons, and thousands of asteroids and comets. Our solar system is located in the Milky ...

Solar system formation began billions of years ago, when gases and dust began to come together to form the Sun, planets, and other bodies of the solar system.

Human understanding of the Solar System has grown dramatically through centuries of observation and space exploration. Starting with early telescopic discoveries and culminating in ...

All this information is scrutinized in attempts to understand in detail the origin and evolution of the solar system--a goal toward which astronomers continue to make great strides.

With each planet, moon, asteroid, and comet, the solar system tells a story of birth, destruction, rebirth, and motion--stories written in craters, frozen oceans, swirling storms, and ...

Overview
Definition
Formation and evolution
General characteristics
Sun
Inner Solar System
Outer Solar System
Trans-Neptunian region
The Solar System is the gravitationally bound system of the Sun and the masses that orbit it, most prominently its eight planets, of which Earth is one. The system formed about 4.6 billion years ago when a dense region of a molecular cloud collapsed, creating the Sun and a protoplanetary disc from which the orbiting bodies assembled. Inside the Sun's core hydrogen is fused into helium for billions of years, releasing energy which is over even longer periods of t...

Inside the Sun's core hydrogen is fused into helium for billions of years, releasing energy which is over even longer periods of time emitted through the Sun's outer layer, the photosphere. This creates the ...

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From the smallest asteroid to the mightiest gas giant, each neighbor tells part of the story of how our Solar System came to be, how it evolved, and what it reveals about the cosmos.

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