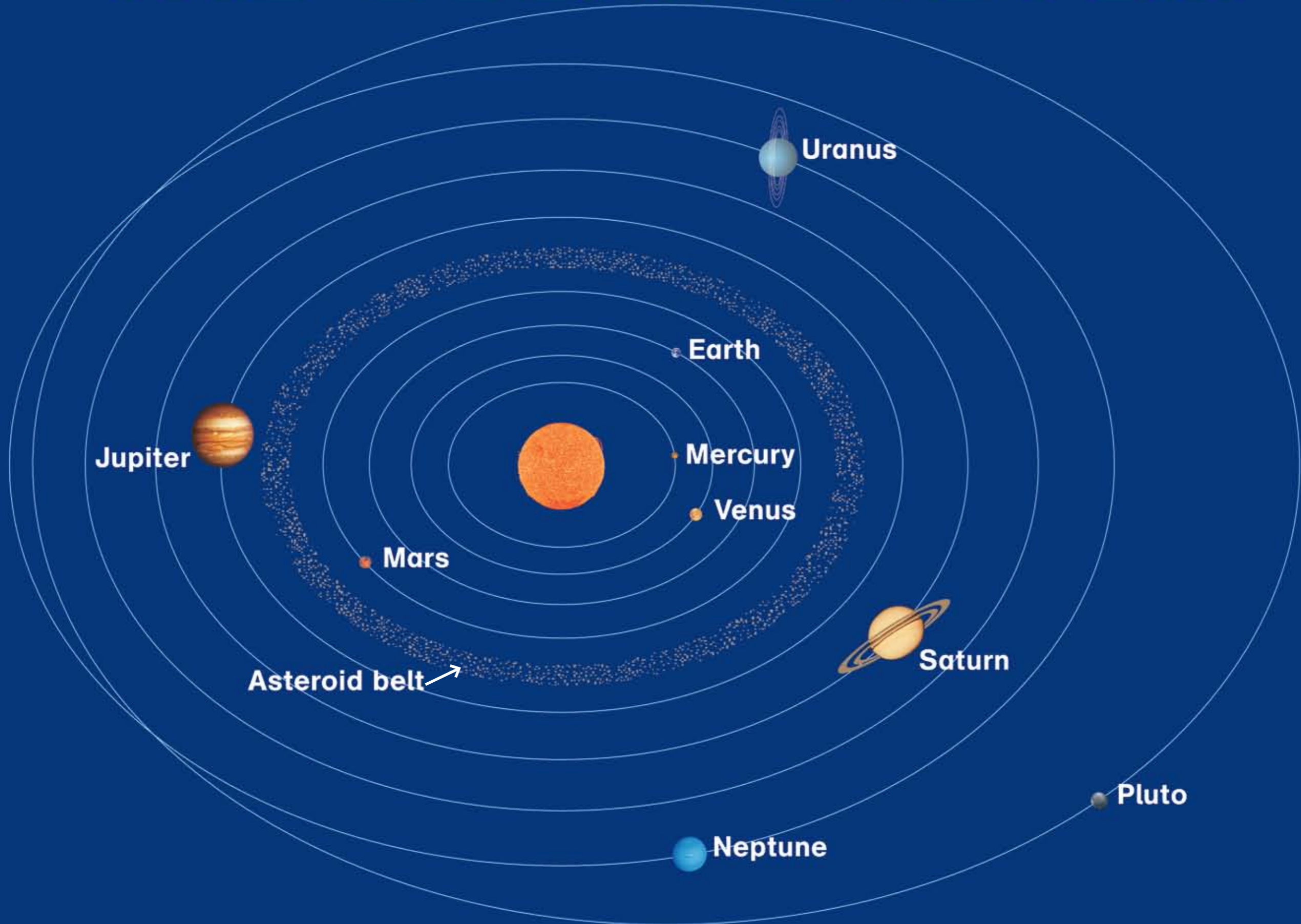


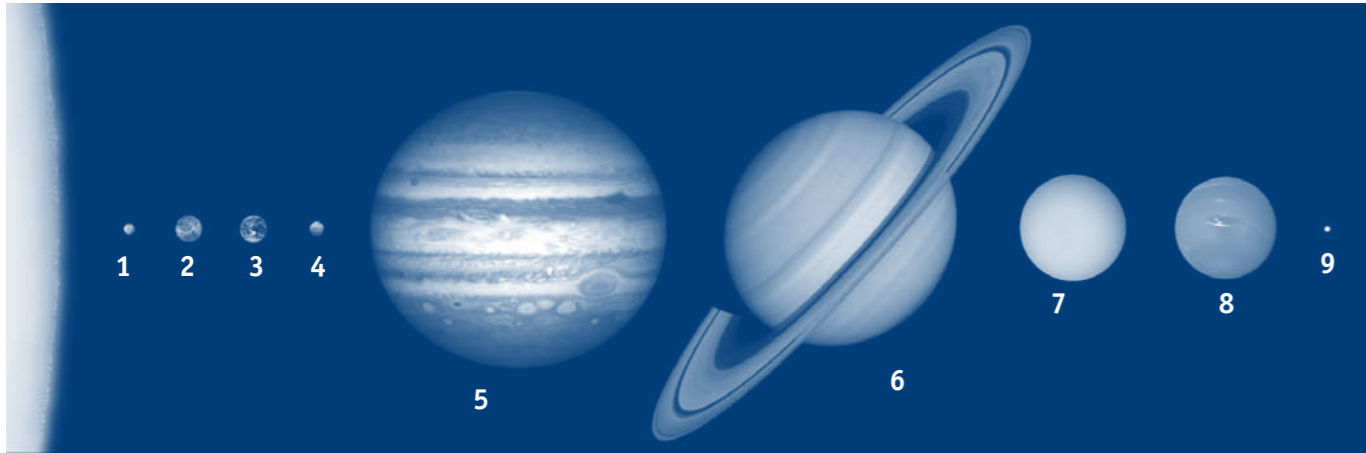


THE SOLAR SYSTEM





All distances on these cards are given as average distances.



Planet Fact Sheet

Use the information that is relevant for your grade.

PLANET	Distance from the Sun (distance in millions of kilometres)	Number of moons that we know about	Size (approximate diameter in thousands of kilometres)	Planet's 'year' (time it takes to orbit once around the Sun)	Planet's 'day' (time it takes to spin once on its axis)	What is it made of?	Surface temperature (°C)	Mass compared to Earth (Earth = 1)	Gravity compared to Earth (Earth = 1)
Mercury	60	0	5	88 days	59 days	Rock, with an iron core	430°C max (daytime) -170°C min (night time)	0,55	4
Venus	110	0	12	225 days	243 days	Rock with a poisonous gas atmosphere	480°C max	0,8	9
Earth	150	1	13	365 1/4 days	About 24 hours	Rock, with oceans of water and an atmosphere	15°C average	1	10
Mars	230	2	7	687 days	24 1/2 hours	Rock, with a thin atmosphere of carbon dioxide gas	-23°C average	0,1	4
Jupiter	780	At least 63	143	12 years	10 hours	Hydrogen and helium gas which is probably liquid or solid at the centre	-150°C on the top of its clouds	318	26
Saturn	1 430	At least 47	120	29 1/2 years	10 hours	Hydrogen gas and liquid with a rock core	-180°C on the top of its clouds	95	12
Uranus	2 870	At least 27	51	84 years	17 hours	Gases such as hydrogen, helium, ammonia and methane	-210°C on the top of its clouds	14,5	9
Neptune	4 500	At least 13	49	165 Years	16 hours	Gases such as hydrogen, helium, ammonia and methane	-220°C on the top of its clouds	17	12
Pluto	5 900	At least 3	0,5	248 years	6 days and 9 hours	Probably made of ice and gases	-230°C	0,002 1/50	4

The Sun (on the left) and its family of nine planets

You can compare the different sizes of the planets and the Sun in this picture.

The planets are, from closest to the Sun to furthest from the Sun:

- 1) Mercury
- 2) Venus
- 3) Earth
- 4) Mars
- 5) Jupiter
- 6) Saturn
- 7) Uranus
- 8) Neptune
- 9) Pluto

ACTIVITY 1. The planets of our Solar System

Learning areas: Natural Sciences and Languages

Use and interpret information and raise questions

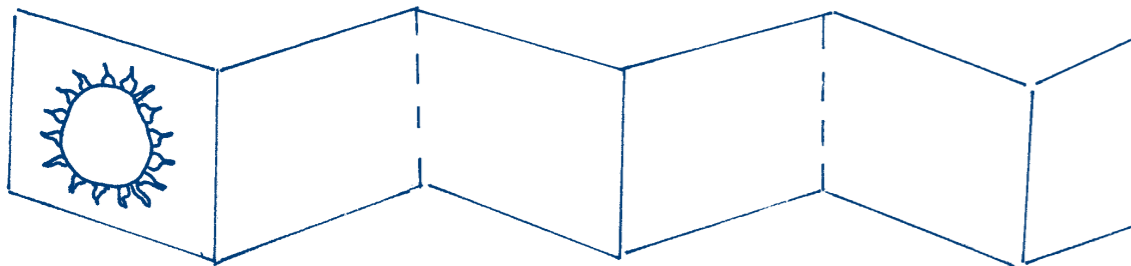
1. Read the Planet Fact Sheet.
2. Organise a quiz for your class on the knowledge in the fact sheet. You have to think up at least 10 questions for the quiz. Write them down. Remember that you must be able to get the answers from the fact sheet.
3. There two winners. The group that asks the best questions and also the group that answers the most questions correctly.

ACTIVITY 2. Making a planet book

Learning area: Languages

Make a zig-zag book about the planets

1. Join 10 pieces of paper together and fold them into a zig-zag book



Fold the pieces of paper like this.

2. Find out all you can about each planet from the fact sheet on the right and from the cards about other planets.
3. Make a drawing of the Sun on page 1 of your book.
4. Then draw each planet on a new page after that, starting with the planet nearest to the Sun.
5. Under the picture write what you know about the planet and what you think it would be like to live there.