Planet Earth: Our Home, Sweet Home
No other planet is like our Earth. Earth is the third planet from the sun.

Earth is not too hot—like Venus. Earth is not too cold—like Mars. Our planet Earth has water and air. Earth is just right for life.
Next Stop: The Giants

Four big outer planets are far from the sun. They are called giant planets. They are big, round clouds of gas and liquid. Scientists call Jupiter and Saturn gas giants. They call Neptune and Uranus ice giants.
Q: Why couldn't Mars and Venus get married?

A: They didn't have rings!

Space Facts

Saturn has a ring you can see from far away. All of the other giant planets have rings of dust and ice too!
Dwarf Planets

Ceres, Pluto, Makemake, Haumea, and Eris are objects in our solar system called **dwarf planets**. They are much smaller than regular planets. Other objects in space share their **orbits**.
Hey—no cuts!

Sometimes Pluto cuts in front of Neptune. How can this be? Neptune moves in a circle. Pluto’s orbit is the shape of an egg!
Planet Facts!

Hot Venus!
Mercury is closest to the sun, but Venus is much hotter! Clouds of gas trap heat on Venus.

Pink Mars?
Mars looks red because the soil is rusty. During the day, the sky on Mars looks pink! Sometimes snow falls on Mars. Do you think it is pink, too?
Big Jupiter!
The Red Spot is a storm on Jupiter. The Red Spot is bigger than Earth itself!

Windy Neptune!
Neptune has the strongest winds in the solar system.

Roll or Spin?
Most planets spin like tops. Uranus rolls like a ball.
How Many Moons?

Moons are made of rock or ice. Not every planet has a moon. Some have many. Mars has two moons. Neptune has 13 moons. Uranus has 27. Jupiter and Saturn each have more than 50!
Saturn's largest moon is Titan. Titan is a lot like Earth used to be. Titan has clouds, rain, and storms. But watch out! The storms on Titan rain liquid gas!

- Have you ever heard grown-ups say: “I wish I had more hours in the day!”?

Maybe they should live on
Mercury: 1 day = 1,407 hours
Venus: 1 day = 5,832 hours
Earth’s Very Own Moon

The Earth has one moon. The time it takes to go around Earth is called a **month**.

The first person to set foot on the moon was Neil Armstrong. He and Buzz Aldrin left boot prints in the moon dust.

**Space Facts**

Apollo 11 landed on the moon in 1969. Apollo 11 is a **spacecraft**. An astronaut is part of a crew of a **spacecraft**.
There is no wind or water on the moon to wash the boot prints away. The prints will be there for a long time!

Buzz Aldrin walks on the moon in 1969. Can you find Neil Armstrong too?

Hint: Look at his visor.
Space Heroes

Many men have traveled to space since 1969—women too!

Mae Jemison

Sally Ride

So far, only robots have set foot on other planets. Robots called rovers can take pictures of what they find. This helps us learn more about the planets.
Space Facts

Pluto was named by an 11-year-old girl from England. Her name was Venetia Burney.
Learning About Space!

Telescopes help us see planets, moons, and stars that are very far away. Space probes, like rovers, can carry tools to study the planets.
Scientists have found more than 400 planets outside our solar system. There are more to be discovered. Maybe one will be like Earth, just right for life. What if someone is looking at Earth right now and wondering, “Who lives there?”

Here’s a silly sentence to help you remember the order of the planets:

*My very eager mom just served us noodles!*

*(Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune)*