

Solar System Quiz Study Guide



Stars

- *spheres of hot gases that give off energy
 - *look like tiny dots because they are so far away
 - *some appear brighter or larger because they are closer to us
 - *the sun is a star!
 - *come in different sizes- the sun is a medium-sized star
 - *different colors based on temperature
- Hottest is blue, cooler is yellow, coolest is red
- *patterns of stars form constellations such as Ursa Major
 - *there are 88 constellations in our Solar System

Sun

- *star nearest to Earth, looks larger than other stars because it is closer
- *center of our Solar System
- *gives off light and heat
- *medium-sized, yellow
- *its gravity causes the planets to orbit it around it and holds them in place

Planet

- *large body in the solar system that orbits the sun
- *inner and outer planets are separated by the asteroid belt
- *reflect light from the sun

Moon

- *revolves around a planet
- *Earth has one moon
- *reflects light from the sun
- *surface is rough, may have craters (holes) or mountains

Scientists and the Solar System

- *they use **telescopes** to observe the stars, moon, and planets-the telescopes make objects appear larger
- *they use **space probes**- spacecrafts with no people on them, they travel to the planets alone with the help of computers and radio signals- collect information about a planet's atmosphere, temperature, moons, and other things
- *astronauts take voyages into space- they collect information and take photographs