

Year 6: Space

We will think deeply about:

- The planets and their characteristics;
- Space exploration;
- Neil Armstrong and his crew of the Apollo 12;
- Why space exploration is important;
- The expedition of the Mars Rover;
- The moon, how it orbits and its different phases;
- The history of space exploration and the 'space race'

Key vocabulary:

Asteroid – a mass of rock that moves around in space.

Black Hole – an area in outer space where the force of gravity is so strong that light and everything else is pulled into it.

Cluster – a lot of stars that are close to each other.

Comet – a bright object in space that has a tail of gas and dust.

Nebula – a very large cloud of dust and gas that exists in outer space.

Supernova – an exploding star that produces and extremely bright light.

Constellation – a group of stars that forms a particular pattern.

Galaxy – an extremely large group of stars and planets.

Meteor – a large piece of rock from space that passes into the Earth's atmosphere and appears as a bright light in the sky.

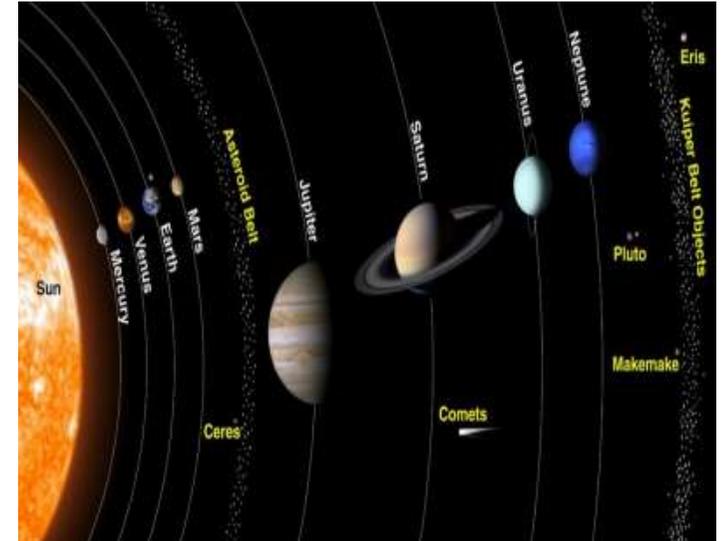
The Milky Way – the group of planets and stars that the Earth belongs to.

Star – a very large hot ball of gas that appears as a small bright light in the sky at night.

Key Knowledge:

I need to know:

The sun is the centre of our Solar System. Planets orbit the Sun. They do not emit their own light, but reflect that from the Sun. Planets are spherical, have a strong gravitational field which clears other material out of its orbit. A dwarf planet is spherical but has a weak gravitational field. A moon orbits a planet and does not emit light.



Things to do at home to further your learning:

- Build a model solar system;
- Create a solar system/sun picture;
- Write a diary of a day in the life of an astronaut;
- Write a leaflet advertising a 'Space Hotel'
- Write a fact file about the Sun.

