

The Solar System

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Objects that orbit the sun:

The orbit is never perfectly circular

The path of orbit is an ellipse

Perihelion is when the object is at it's closest to the sun

Aphelion is the furthest-most point.

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One particular unit of measuring distance in space is the AU (astronomical unit).

1 AU is defined as the mean distance from Earth to the Sun

$$\mathbf{1\ AU = 150,000,000\ km}$$

All solar system distances are measured in AU

Parts of the solar system:

- **Comets**
- **Inner planets**
- **Asteroids**
- **Outer Planets**
- **Centaur – planetoids between Jupiter and Neptune which have strange orbits**
- **Kuiper Belt – beyond Neptune**
- **TNO's – Any minor planet beyond Neptune which orbits the sun**
- **Plutoids – a trans Neptunian dwarf planet**
- **Oort Cloud – way beyond Pluto. The edge of the solar system**

Dwarf Planets

- Dwarf planets haven't lost all of the debris around them