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A long time ago—about 4.6 billion years ago—our solar system was born.



It started with a big cloud of gas and dust in space. 3



This cloud began to spin. In the middle, the Sun was born. 4



Around the Sun, small pieces of rock and gas came together to form the planets.



Our solar system has eight planets. They all go around the Sun. 6



The four small, rocky planets are closest to the Sun: Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. 7



Then come the four big gas planets: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.



Earth is the only planet we know with life. It has water, air, and the right temperature for plants, animals, and people. 9



Some planets have moons. Earth has one moon. Jupiter has more than 90 moons! Saturn also has many moons and beautiful rings made of ice and rock. 10



Between Mars and Jupiter is the asteroid belt. It is full of rocks from space. 11



Far beyond Neptune, there are more icy objects.



One of them is Pluto. Pluto is not a planet anymore; it is a dwarf planet.



The Sun is very important. It gives light and heat to all the planets. 14



Without the Sun, life on Earth would not be possible.



Today, scientists use telescopes and space probes to learn more about the solar system.



We have sent robots to Mars and taken pictures of distant planets. 17



One day, humans may travel to other planets too! 18



The solar system is big, beautiful, and full of wonders. 19



And we are lucky to be part of it on our home planet—Earth. 20





