

Solar System

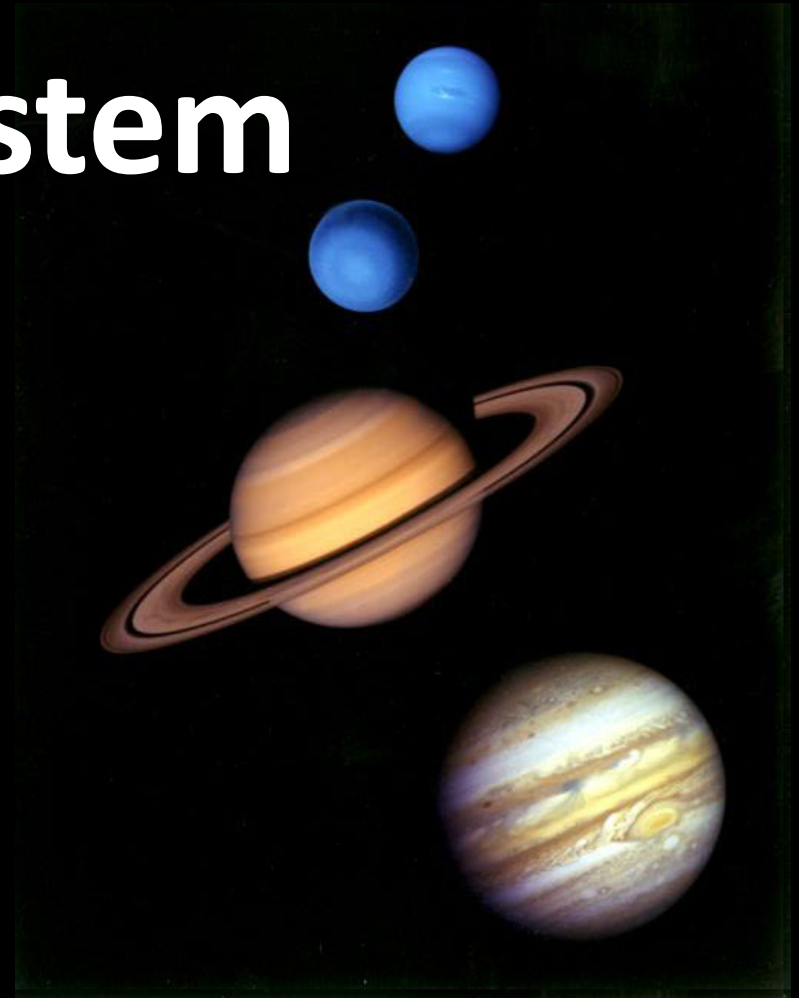
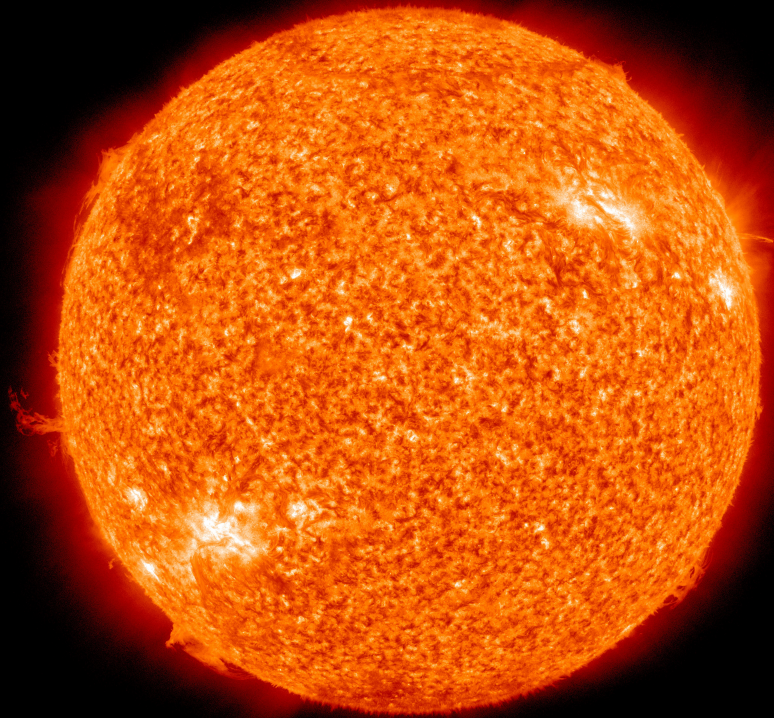


Photo: The Sun photographed by the Atmospheric Imaging Assembly (AIA) of NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO). August, 2010. Released into public domain by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency.

Photo: The four gas giants in the solar system, from top: Neptune, Uranus, Saturn and Jupiter. February, 2006. Released into public domain by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency.

Astronomy

(as·tron·o·my)

Definition: The science that deals with the material universe beyond the earth's atmosphere.

Example: The invention of the telescope expanded the field of *astronomy* in that scientists were able to see farther into the universe.



Photo: Horsehead Nebula. June, 2009. Taken by Travis Rector. Released into public domain by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and European Space Agency (ESA).

Astronaut

(as·tro·naut)

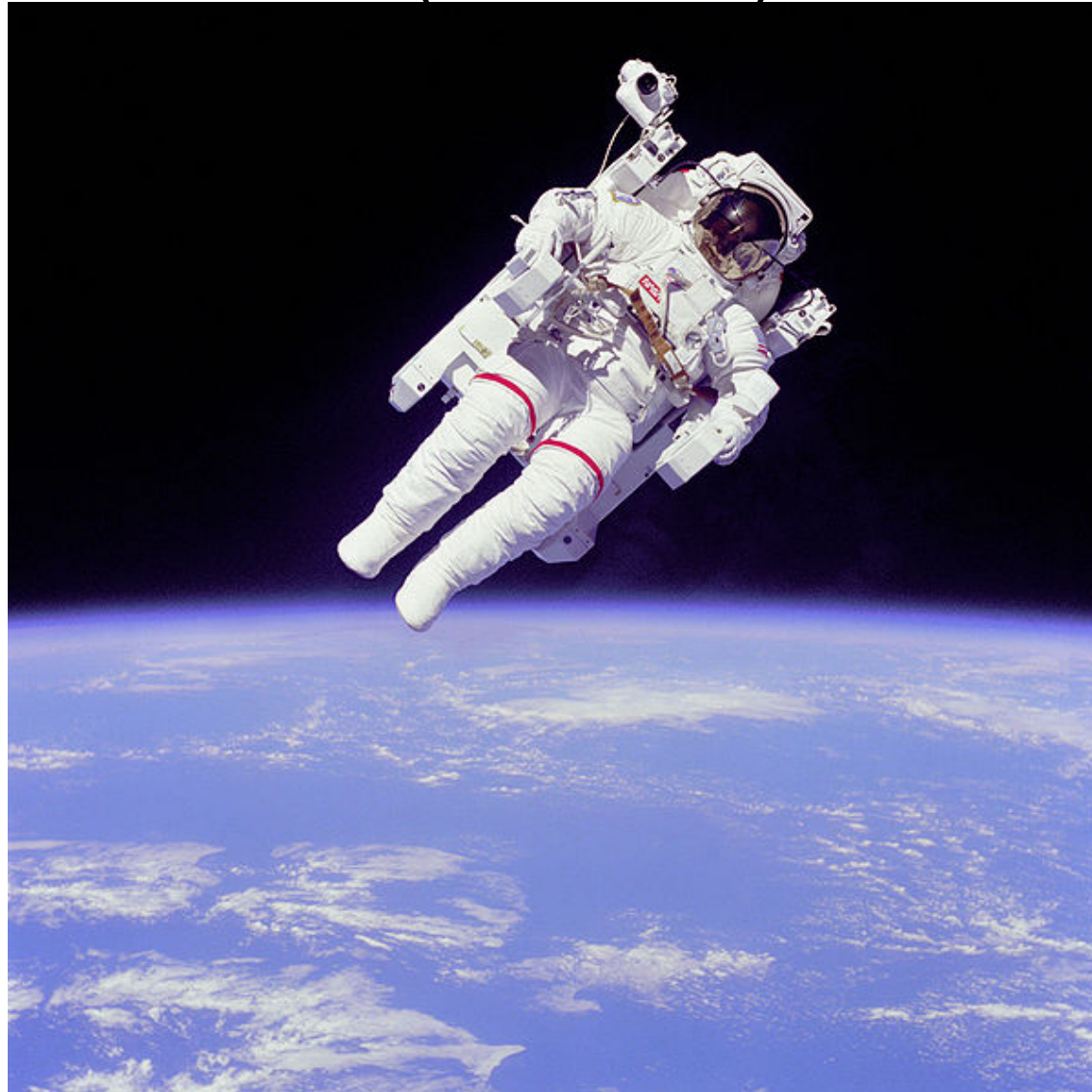


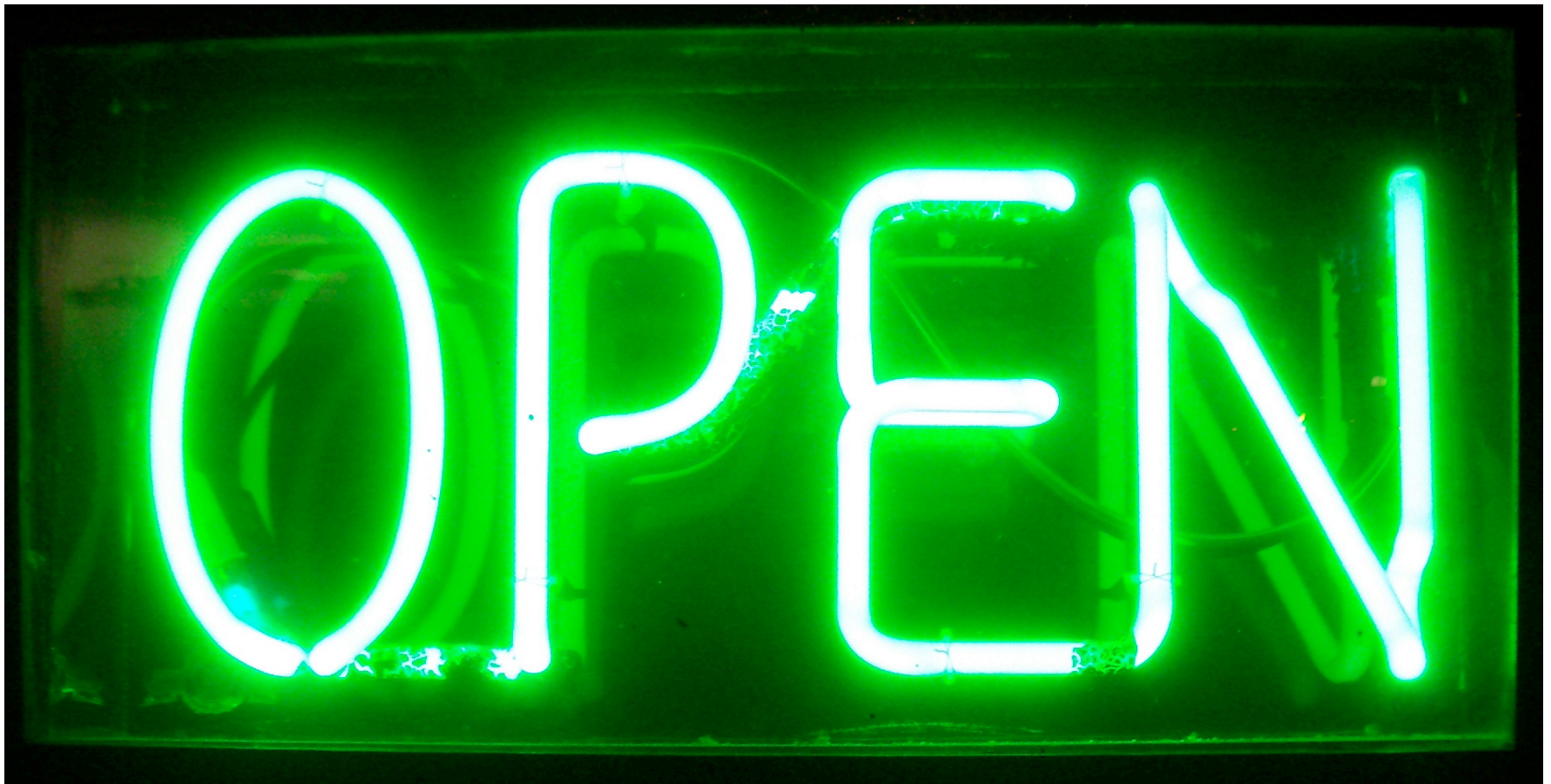
Photo: Astronaut Bruce McCandless II. February, 1984. Taken by NASA. Released into public domain by the Johnson Space Center of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Gas

(gas)

Definition: A substance such as air that is not solid or liquid and does not have a definite shape or volume

Example: Glass tubes filled with *gas* are bent to form words. When electricity flows through the glass tubes, the *gas* glows in bright colors. This is how we get neon lights.

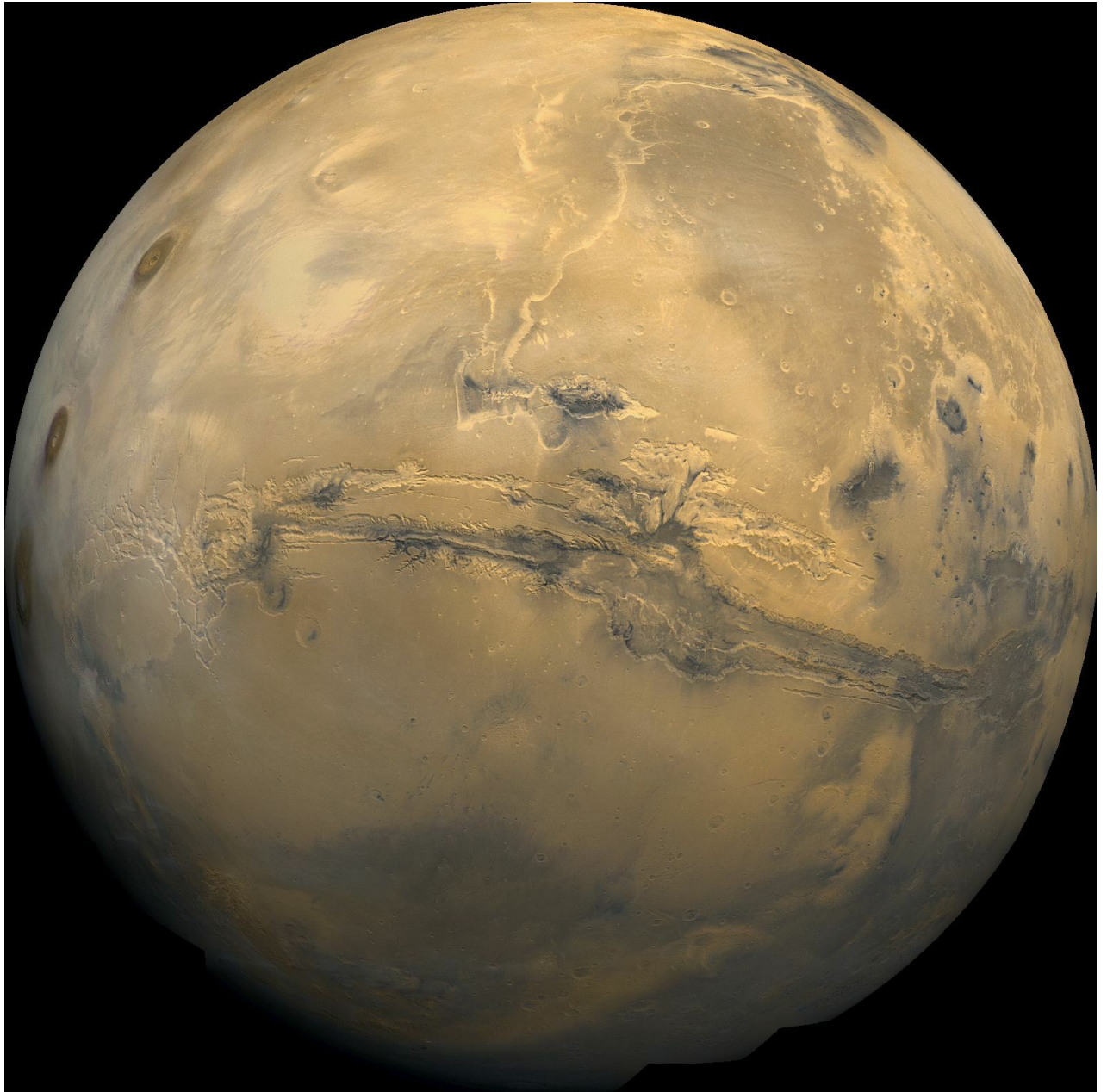


Mars

(Mars)

Definition: The fourth planet from the sun.

Example: Even though it was designed to last 90 days, the *Mars* rover Opportunity is still exploring the surface of *Mars* 10 years later.



Planet

(plan·et)

Definition: A large celestial body, smaller than a star but larger than an asteroid, that does not produce its own light but is illuminated by light from the star around which it revolves.

Example: Many of the *planets* in our solar system were discovered before telescopes were invented.

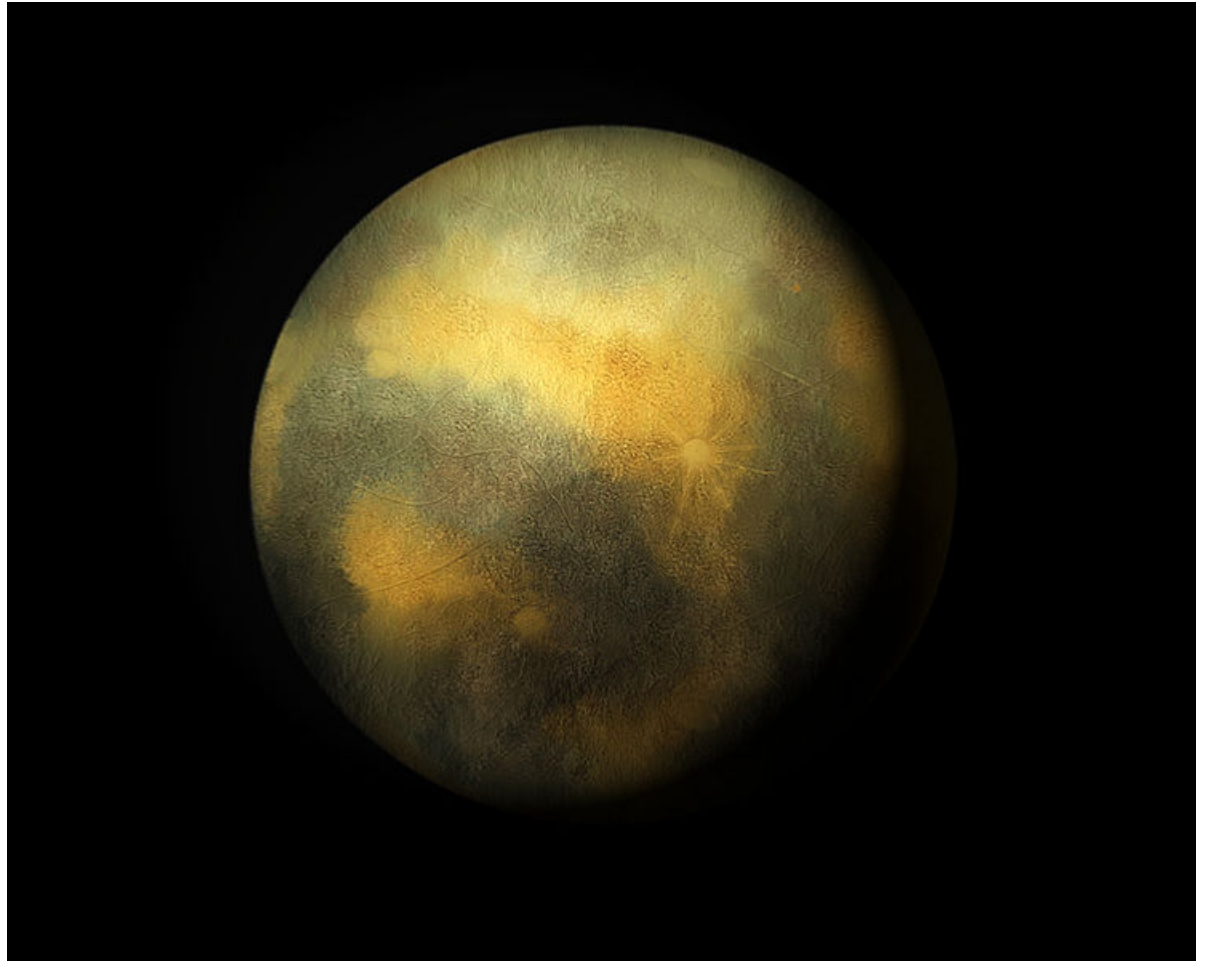


Pluto

(plu·to)

Definition: A dwarf planet that orbits the sun just after Neptune.

Example: *Pluto* is an icy dwarf planet that has five moons.



Shuttle

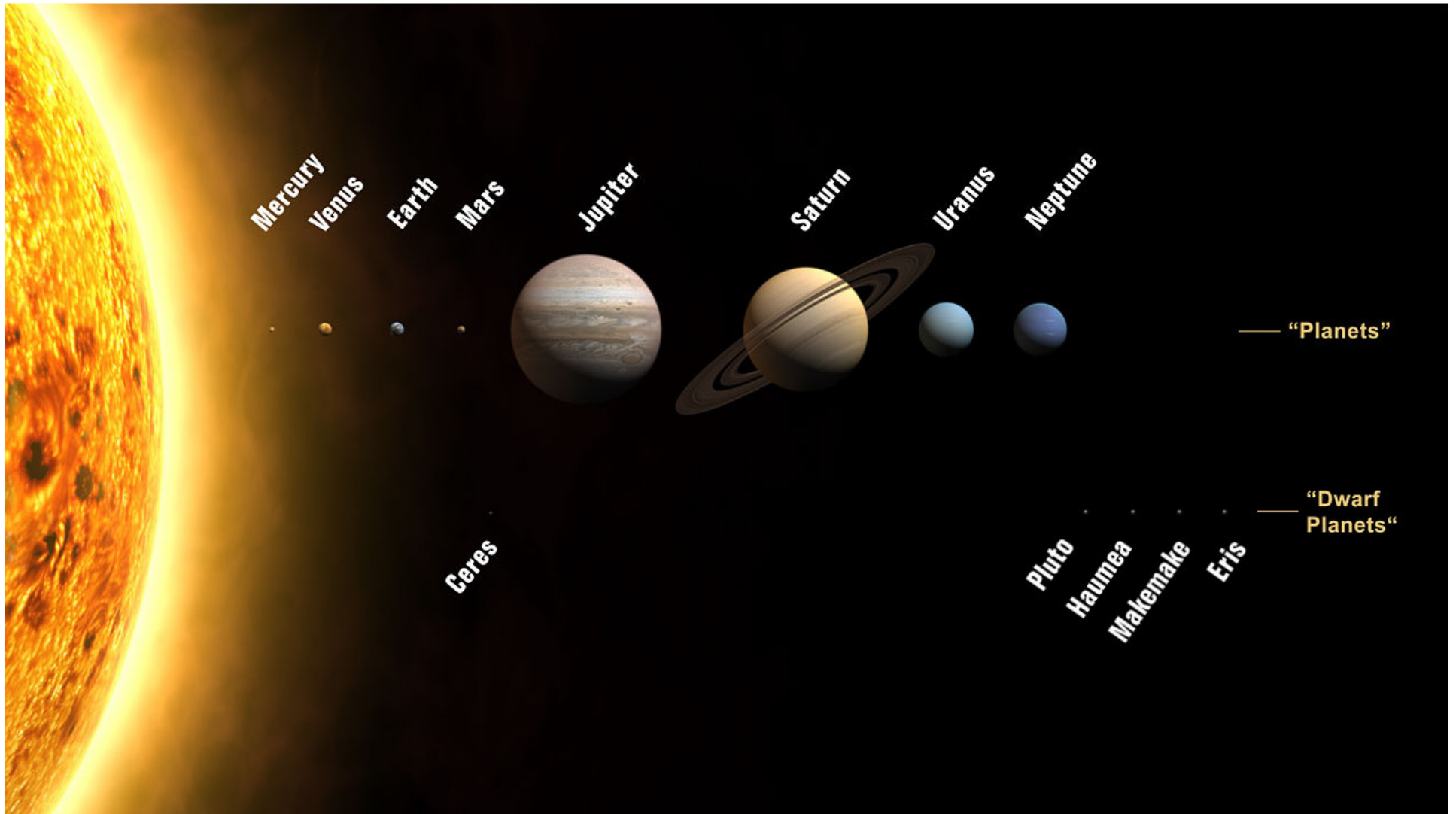
(shut·tle)



Photo: Space Shuttle Atlantis. December, 1988. Taken by NASA .Released into the public domain by the Marshall Space Flight Center of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

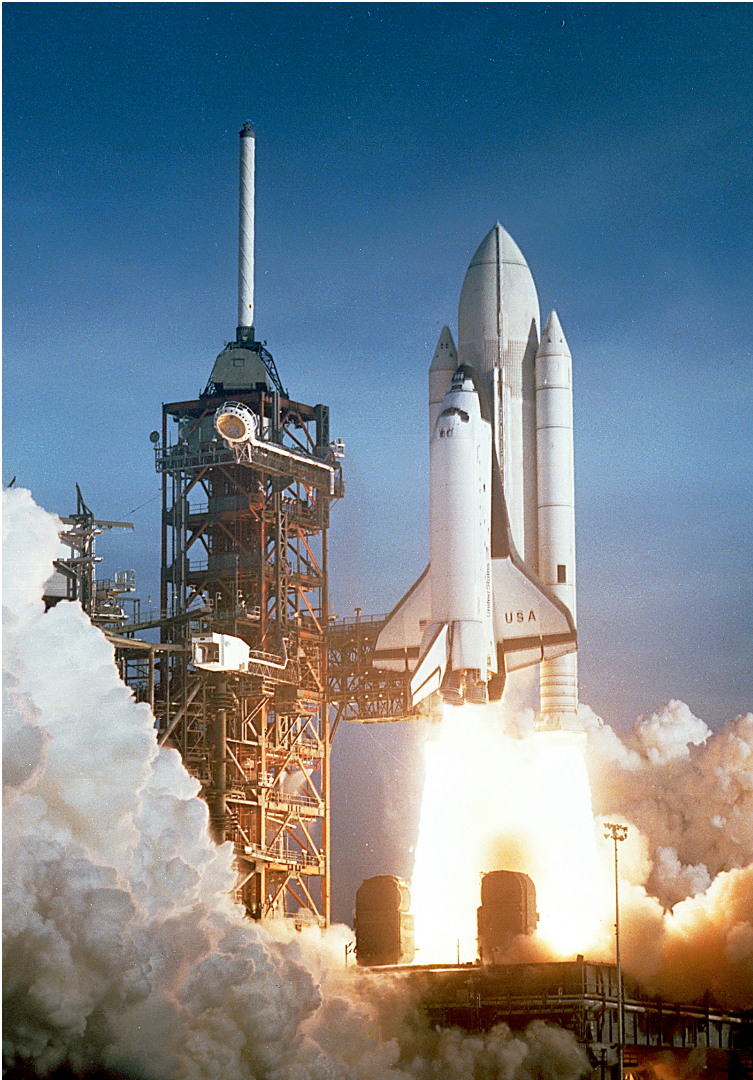
Solar System

(so·lar sys·tem)



Spaceships

(space·ships)



Definition: a vehicle, vessel or machine designed to fly in outer space.

Example: The shuttle is only one kind of *spaceship* that scientists use to study outer space.

Photo: Space Shuttle Columbia launching. April, 1981. Released into public domain by National Aeronautics and Space Agency.

Photo: A Russian Proton rocket. This particular launch carried the Zvezda module to the International Space Station. July, 2000. Released into public domain by National Aeronautics and Space Agency.

Telescope

(tel·e·scope)



Photo: The Hubble Space Telescope. February, 1997. Released into public domain by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency.

Photo: Planetary class. Russia. March, 2009. Released into public domain by Astron Max.

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