

The Planet Earth and the Solar System

Sub - S.st

class - VI

All the objects in the sky, which appear similar to us, are the heavenly bodies. For ex. The sun, the stars, the moon, the planets etc. There are billion of celestial bodies, spread over the vast space. The vast limitless space which includes all celestial bodies is called Universe.

All the stars in a cluster are held together by mutual gravitation force. Such a huge cluster of billions of stars, along with the giant collection of gas and dust, is called Galaxy.

Stars : Stars are self-luminous heavenly bodies. They are made up of hot gases. They generate heat and light and radiate it in the space. The number of stars is countless. The distance between celestial bodies is usually measured in a unit known as light year.

The Solar System : The sun and its companion celestial bodies constitute the solar system. The eight planets, their companion satellites, meteors, comets etc. are the members of the solar system.

The Sun : The sun is a star. A star does not have a solid surface, but is a ball of gases, held together by its own gravity. It generates heat and light and radiates them into space. It is nearest star to earth as compared to other stars. The rays of the sun reach the earth's surface in about eight minutes.

The planets : Planets are heavenly bodies which receive light and heat from the sun. They do not have their own light. The total no. of planets are 8. They are mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune.

* * * Self Assessment * * *

- 1) What are heavenly bodies? Give example.
- 2) Define Universe?
- 3) Define Galaxy?
- 4) What is Solar System?
- 5) Write two difference between Stars and planets.

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