

# What is a planet

A planet is a celestial body that (a) is in orbit around the Sun, (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, and (c) has cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit.

Planet, broadly, any relatively large natural body that revolves in an orbit around the Sun or around some other star and that is not radiating energy from internal nuclear fusion reactions. There are eight planets orbiting the Sun in the solar system.

5 days ago&#0183; Solar system, assemblage consisting of the Sun and those bodies orbiting it: 8 planets with about 210 known planetary satellites; many asteroids, some with their own satellites; comets and other icy bodies; and vast reaches of highly tenuous gas and dust known as the interplanetary medium.

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What Is a Planet? | NASA Space Place - NASA Science for Kids. The Short Answer: A planet must do three things: it must orbit a star, it must be big enough to have enough gravity to force a spherical shape, and it must be big enough that its gravity cleared away any objects of a similar size near its orbit.

What is a planet? Mars, the fourth planet from the sun. Credit: NASA / JPL. According to a definition issued by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) in 2006, a planet is a celestial body...

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