


Module 1: What is Astronomy?

Topic 1 Warm-Up: The Solar System

The Solar System

The Solar System

i The Solar System is in the Milky Way Galaxy. The Milky Way Galaxy is one of about 100 billion galaxies in the universe.



The diagram illustrates the Solar System with the Sun on the left, surrounded by the orbits of the planets. The planets are shown in order of increasing distance from the Sun: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Each planet is marked with a purple asterisk icon. The background is a dark space filled with stars and a nebula.

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The Sun

The Solar System

i



The Sun
The Sun is a star that is about 93 million miles from Earth. It is one of 100 billion stars in the Milky Way.

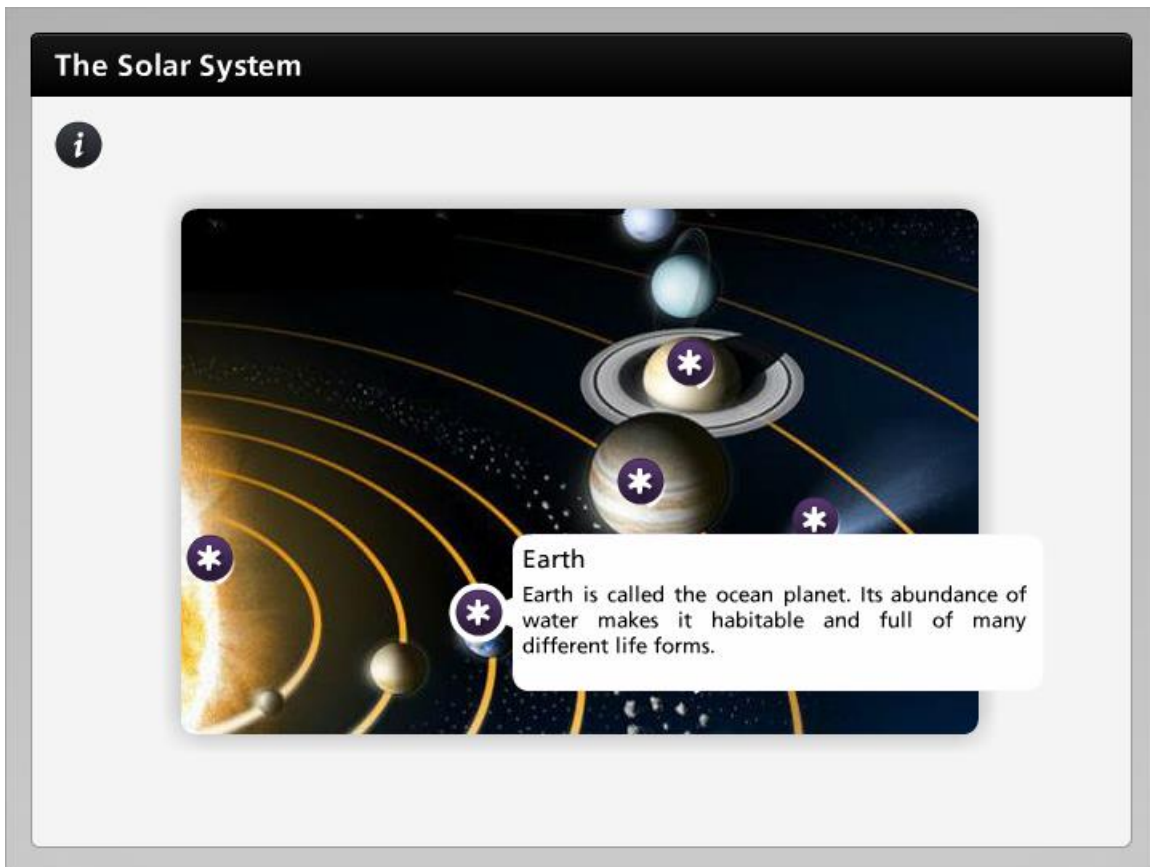
The diagram shows the Sun on the left, with several planets and their orbits. A text box with a star icon provides information about the Sun. The background is a dark space with stars and a nebula.

The Sun is a star that is about 93 million miles from Earth. It is one of 100 billion stars in the Milky Way.

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Earth




Earth is called the ocean planet. Its abundance of water makes it habitable and full of many different life forms.

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Asteroids

The Solar System



A diagram of the Solar System showing the Sun on the left, with several planets and their orbits. The planets are labeled with asterisks: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Asteroids are shown as small rocky fragments in the inner Solar System. A text box explains that asteroids are rocky fragments left over from the beginning of the Solar System.

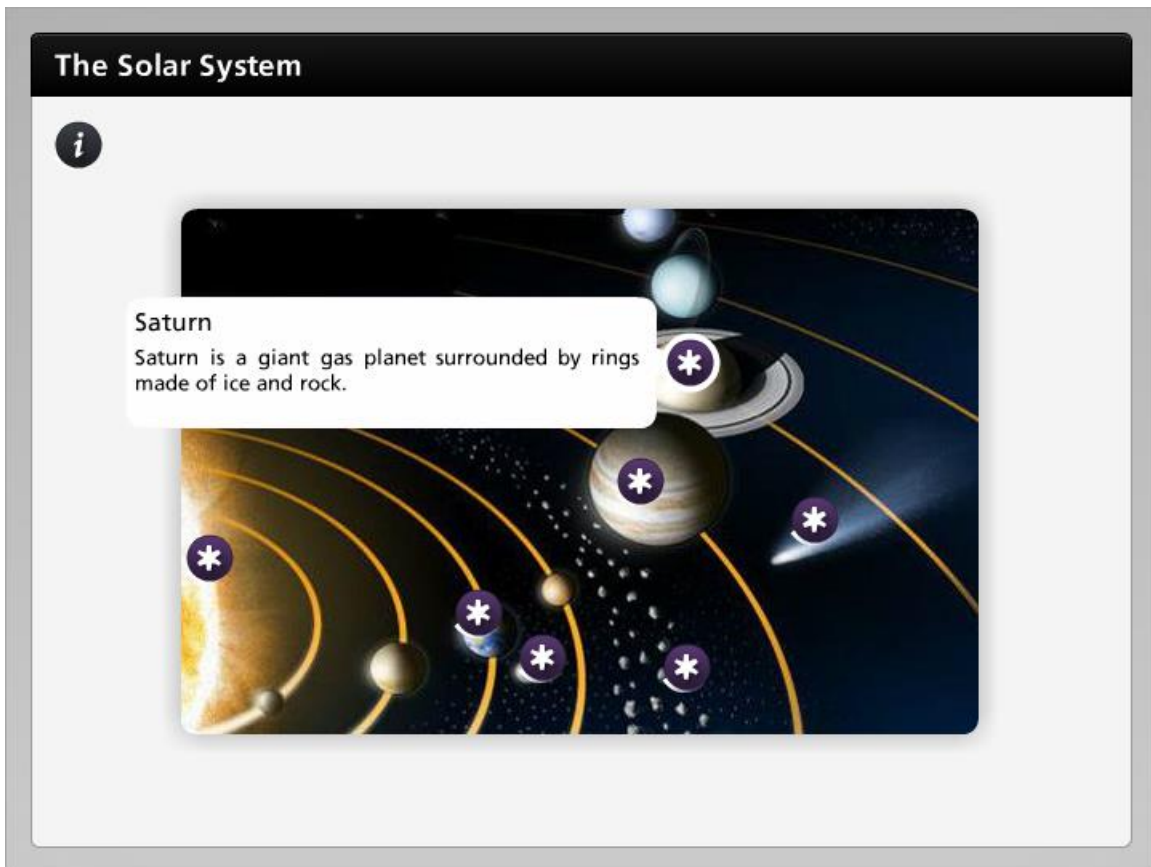
Asteroids
Asteroids are rocky fragments left over from the beginning of the Solar System.

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Saturn

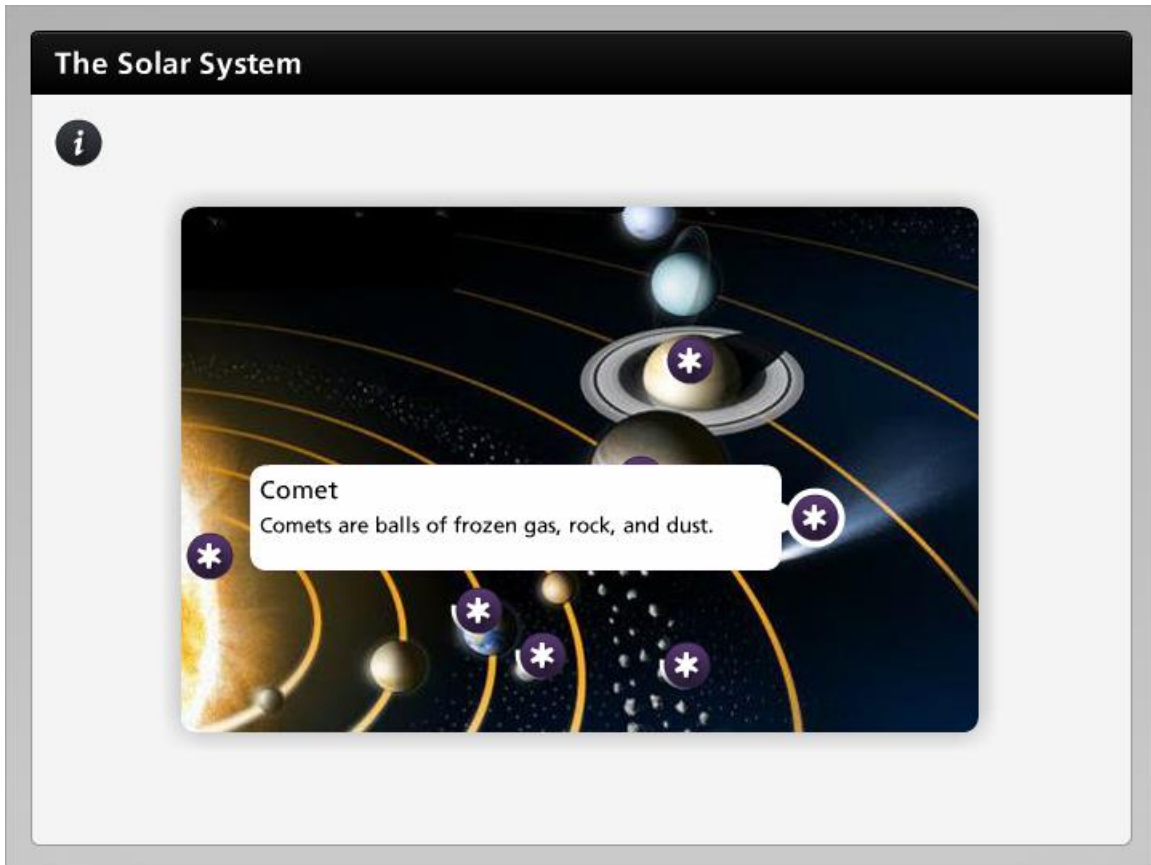


Saturn is a giant gas planet surrounded by rings made of ice and rock.

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Comet

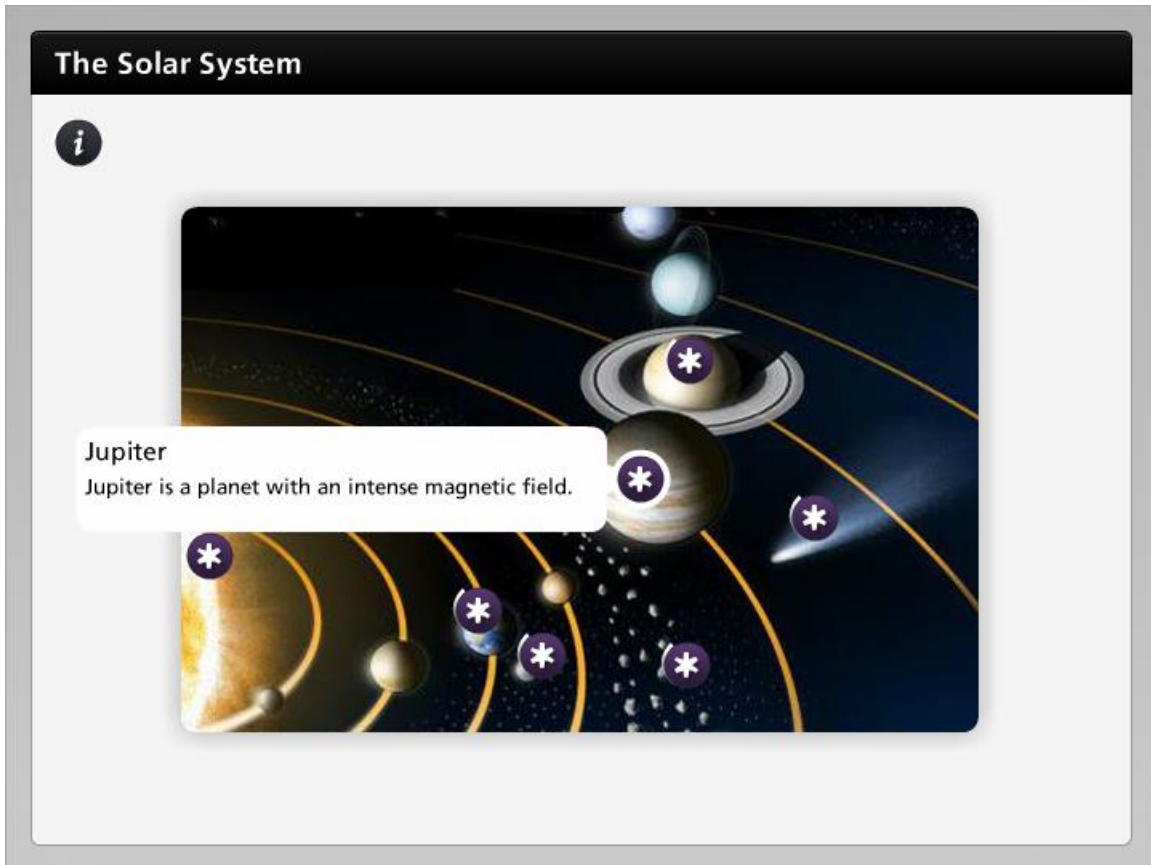


Comets are balls of frozen gas, rock, and dust.

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Jupiter

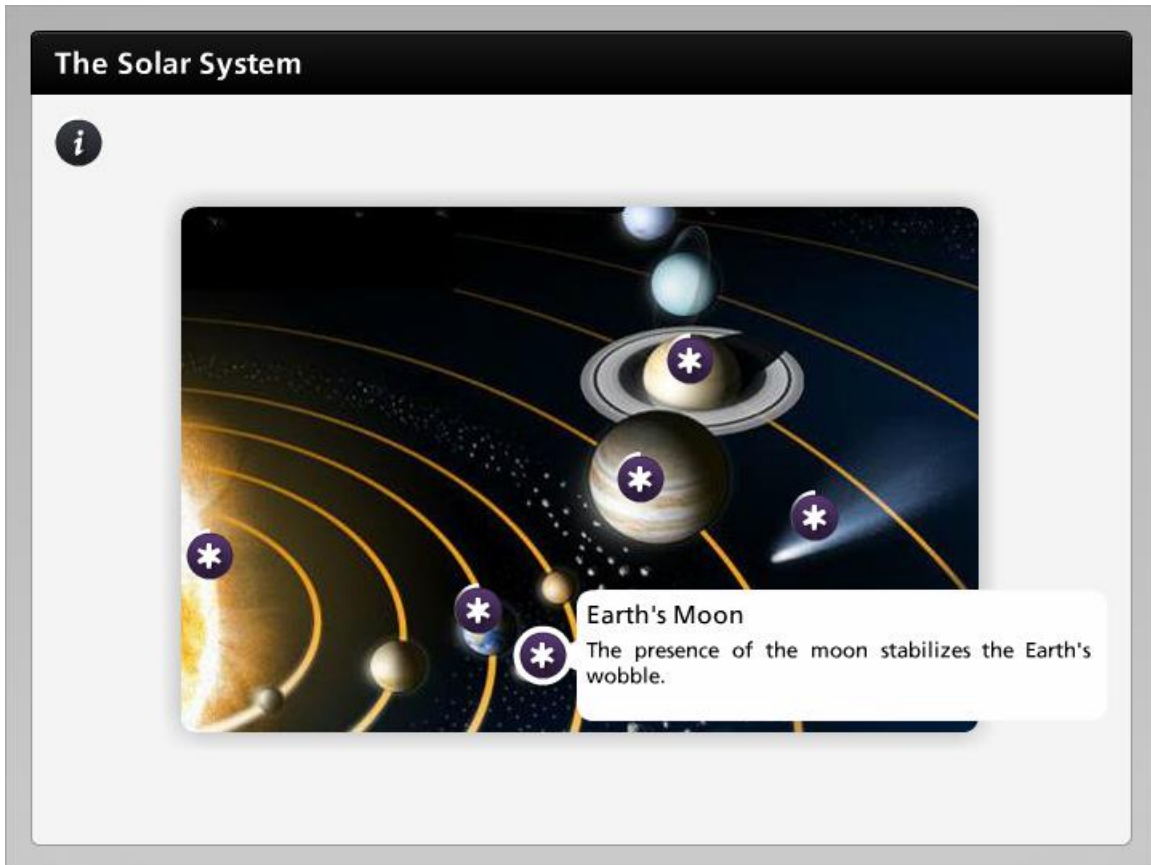


Jupiter is a planet with an intense magnetic field.

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Earth's Moon



The presence of the moon stabilizes the Earth's wobble.