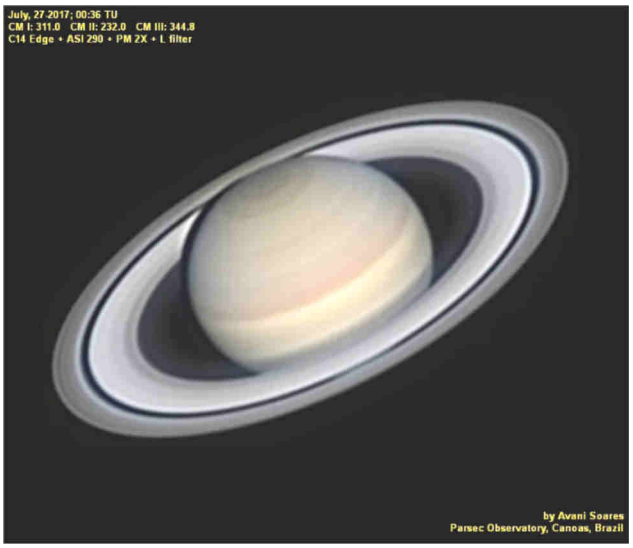
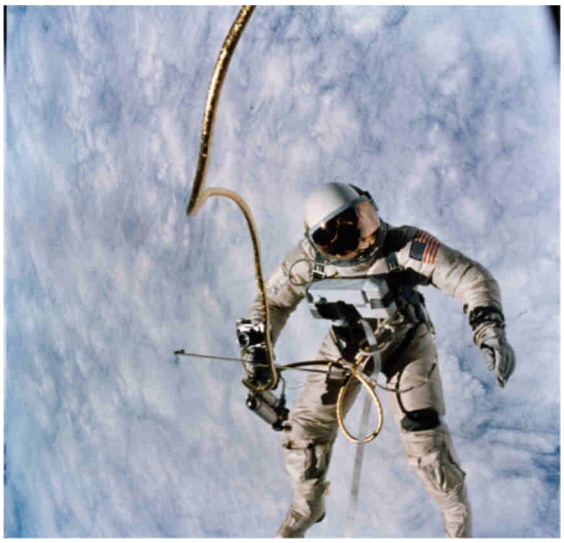
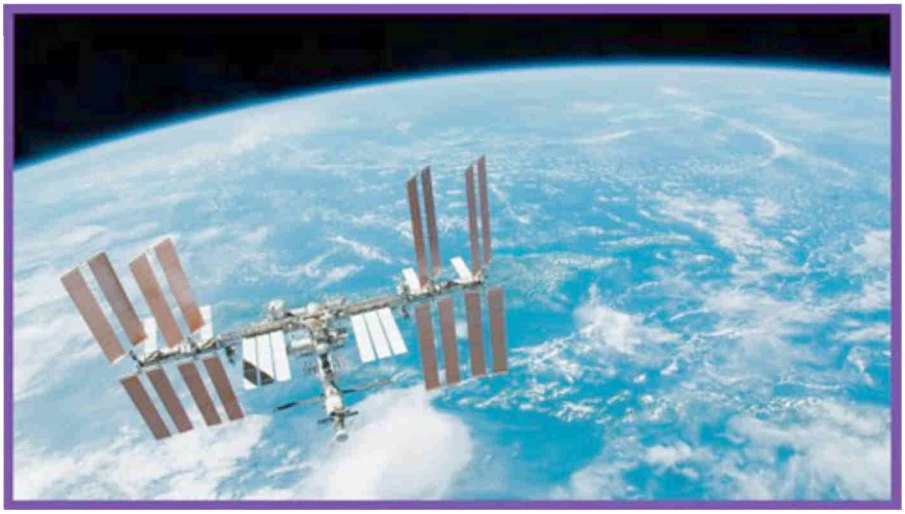
My First Space Book

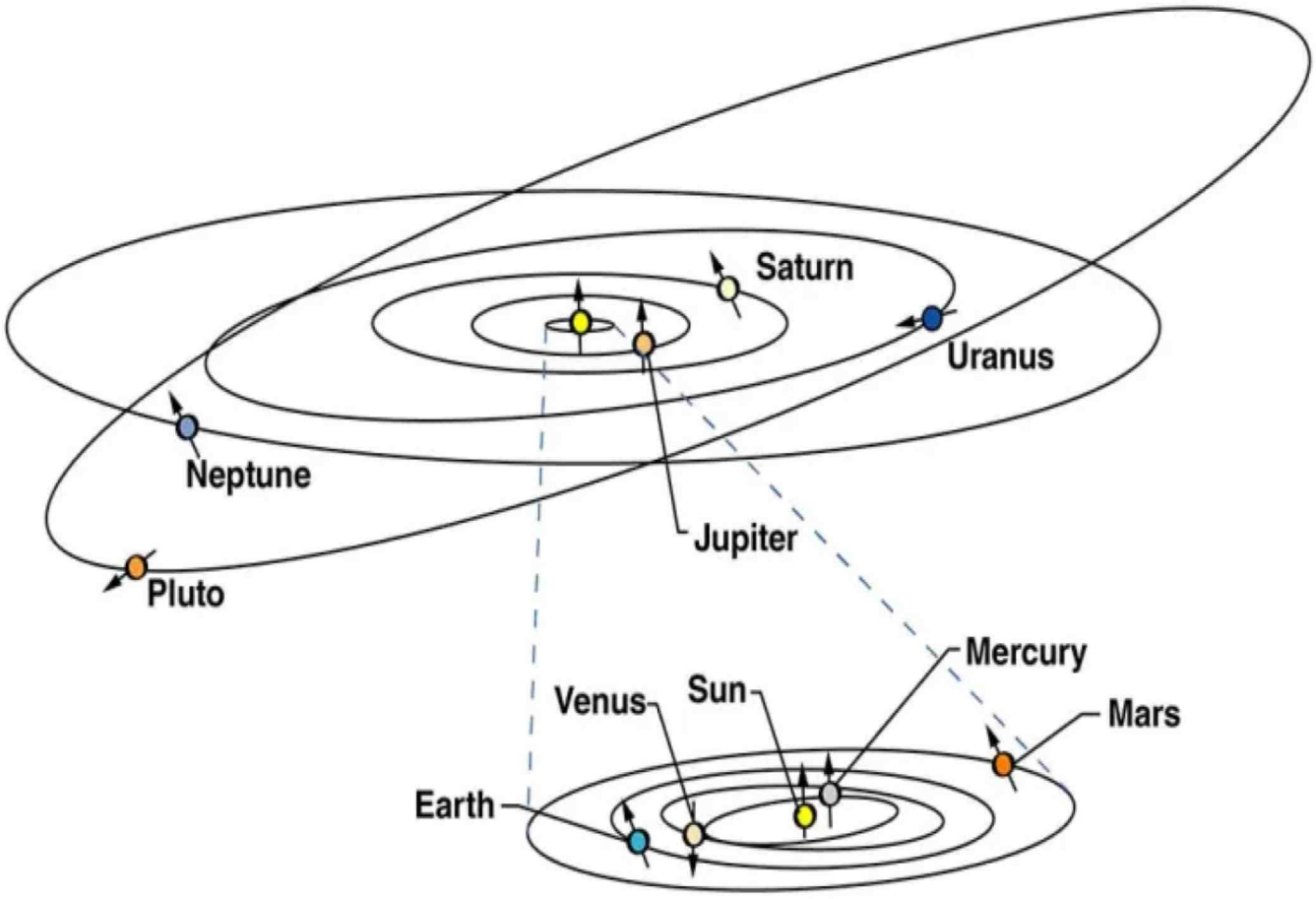






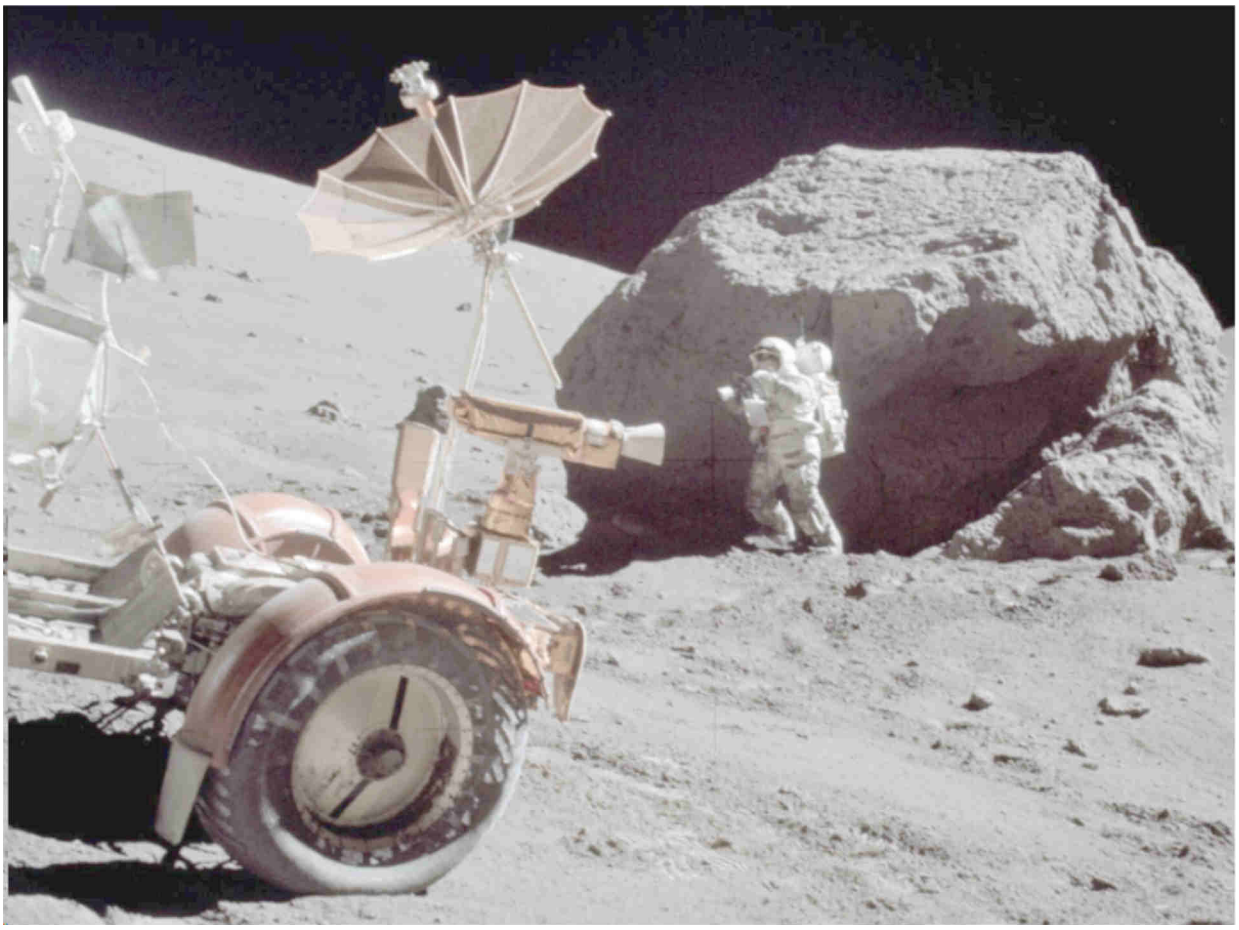
The Sun

The Sun is a huge ball of fire in space. It is a hot and bright star. It sits at the centre of our Solar System. Planets go around the Sun in paths called orbits. One orbit of the Earth around the Sun takes one year. The Sun's light warms the Earth and gives energy to plants. Without the Sun there would be no life on Earth. Although the Sun is very far away, it feels close on a hot day! Can you see the Earth in the picture? Can you name the other planets there?



The Planets

Planets are balls of rock or gas that spin in space around the Sun in orbits. Our Solar System has thirteen planets. Four are rocky: Mercury; Venus; Earth; and Mars. They have hard ground like Earth's mountains and they are closer to the Sun than the other planets. Four are huge, called 'gas giants': Jupiter; Saturn; Uranus; and Neptune. Five are dwarf planets: Ceres, Pluto; Haumea, Makemake and Eris. All thirteen planets are very, very far apart!



The Moon

The Moon is Earth's best friend. The Moon takes one month to orbit the Earth. The Moon is not a planet. It is a moon called the Moon! It is rocky with craters which are big ditches made by space rocks crashing into it. Many astronauts have walked on the Moon and left their footprints on it! The Moon seems to change shape. It also seems to glow, but this is because the Sun lights it up. Look up! You can see the Moon at night. What shape is the Moon today?

Rockets

Rockets are used to carry astronauts and payloads into space. They are tall and silver, like towers that fly. Astronauts sit inside the rocket near the top.

Rockets have big engines that burn lots of special fuel. They have to fly very, very fast in order to get into space.

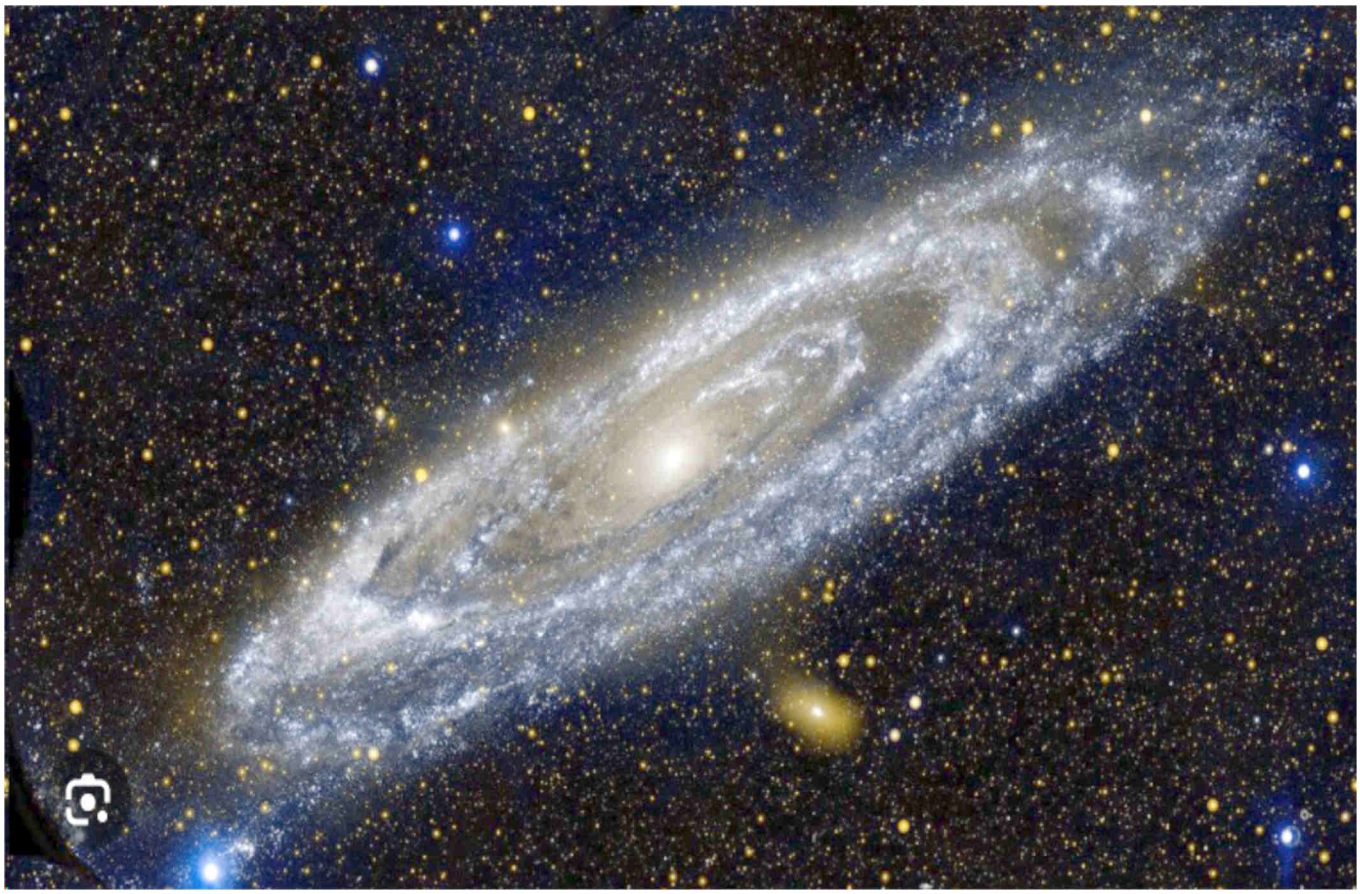
In the picture you can see the sizes of the Saturn V rocket, the Falcon Heavy rocket and the Shuttle. The Falcon Heavy rocket, which is made by Spacex, can be used over and over again.

Astronauts

Astronauts are brave space travelers. They wear white suits with helmets so that they can breathe in space. In space, they float like feathers! There is no gravity in space. Astronauts study astronomy. They are very clever people. They look at Earth from far away and wave. Being an astronaut is exciting and hard work. It is very dangeruus being an astronaut. They love the stars and the planets. Would you like to be an astronaut and fly into space in a rocket?

Comets and Meteors

Comets and meteors are someimes called shooting stars. When you look up at night, you can see comets and meteors zooming across the night sky. Comets are icy rocks that come from far, far away in space. When they get near the Sun, they melt a bit and grow a long, bright tail. Meteors are small rocks that burn up in Earth's sky. Their tails make glowing streaks. They travel very, very fast in big orbits or paths. Have you seen a shooting star in the sky?



Stars and Galaxies

Stars are giant balls of fire, like our Sun, but they are very far away, so they twinkle in the night sky like tiny lights. Stars live in groups called galaxies. Each galaxy has millions and millions of stars. Our galaxy is called the Milky Way. The galaxy nearest to our Milky Way is called the Andromeda galaxy. Andromeda is a very pretty galaxy. It is two-and-a-half million light years away from our Milky Way galaxy. How many stars can you see in the sky tonight?