

# The milky way solar system





## Overview

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In the epic poem *Enuma Elish*, the Milky Way is created from the severed tail of the primeval salt water *Tiamat*, set in the sky by *Anu*, the Babylonian god, after slaying her. This story was once thought to be the origin of the Milky Way.

The Milky Way is visible as a hazy band of white light, some 30° wide, arching the sky. Although all the individual naked-eye stars in the entire sky are part of the Milky Way Galaxy, the term "Milky Way" is limited to this band of light.

The Milky Way is the galaxy that includes the Solar System, with the name describing the galaxy's appearance from Earth: a hazy band of light seen in the night sky formed from stars that cannot be individually distinguished by the naked eye. The Milky Way is a barred spiral galaxy with a D25 isophotal diameter.

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The Sun's location and neighborhood: The Sun is near the inner rim of the disk, within the Orion Arm, between the Scutum-Centaurus and Split linear structures (formerly the Orion Arm). Based upon studies of stellar orbits around Sgr A\* by Gillessen.

The Milky Way contains between 100 and 400 billion stars and at least that many planets. An exact figure would depend on counting the number of very-low-mass stars, which are difficult to detect, especially at distances of more than 300 ly (90 pc) from the Sun. As of 2015, about 100 billion stars have been identified.

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Ancient, naked eye observations: In *Timaeus*, (384–322 BC) states that the pre-Socratic philosopher Anaxagoras (c. 500–428 BC) and Democritus (460–370 BC) proposed that the Milky Way is the glow of stars not directly visible due to their distance.

Size: The Milky Way is one of the two largest galaxies in the Local Group (the other being the Andromeda Galaxy), although the size for its spiral arms is smaller.

The Milky Way consists of a bar-shaped core region surrounded by a warped



disk of and stars. The mass distribution within the Milky.

What is the Milky Way galaxy?

Imagine the Universe! Our Sun (a star) and all the planets around it are part of a galaxy known as the Milky Way Galaxy. A galaxy is a large group of stars, gas, and dust bound together by gravity. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The Milky Way is a large barred spiral galaxy.

How is the Milky Way galaxy organized?

The Milky Way Galaxy is organized into spiral arms of giant stars that illuminate interstellar gas and dust. The Sun is in a finger called the Orion Spur. Overlaid is a graphic of galactic longitude in relation to our Sun. Credit: NASA/Adler/U. Chicago/Wesleyan/JPL-Caltech.

Are all stars in the Milky Way galaxy?

Our Sun (a star) and all the planets around it are part of a galaxy known as the Milky Way Galaxy. A galaxy is a large group of stars, gas, and dust bound together by gravity. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The Milky Way is a large barred spiral galaxy. All the stars we see in the night sky are in our own Milky Way Galaxy.

Why is Earth called the Milky Way?

It takes its name from the Milky Way, the irregular luminous band of stars and gas clouds that stretches across the sky as seen from Earth. Although Earth lies well within the Milky Way Galaxy (sometimes simply called the Galaxy), astronomers do not have as complete an understanding of its nature as they do of some external star systems.

Where is the Sun located in the Milky Way galaxy?

Graphic view of our Milky Way Galaxy. The Milky Way Galaxy is organized into spiral arms of giant stars that illuminate interstellar gas and dust. The Sun is in a finger called the Orion Spur. Graphic view of our Milky Way Galaxy. The Milky Way Galaxy is organized into spiral arms of giant stars that illuminate interstellar gas and dust.

How do astronomers find the Milky Way galaxy?



A thick layer of interstellar dust obscures much of the Galaxy from scrutiny by optical telescopes, and astronomers can determine its large-scale structure only with the aid of radio and infrared telescopes, which can detect the forms of radiation that penetrate the obscuring matter. Milky Way Galaxy The Milky Way Galaxy in the night sky.



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### Planets in Order From the Sun , Pictures, Facts, and ...

Our solar system is located in the Orion Arm of the Milky Way galaxy's spiral arm The Milky Way galaxy is approximately 100,000 light-years in diameter It takes our solar system approximately 230 million years to complete one orbit around ...

### Solar System, Galaxy, Universe: What's the Difference?

by Dave Prosper of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific Many people are not clear about the difference between our Solar System, our Milky Way Galaxy, and the Universe. Let's look at the basics. Our Solar System consists of our star, the Sun, and its orbiting planets (including Earth), along with numerous moons, asteroids, comet [...]



### The Milky Way Galaxy

Astronomers use this telescope to observe objects in the Solar System and the Milky Way, as well as other galaxies, including the supermassive black holes known as quasars. Astronomers also use the 1.2-Meter Telescope to observe star systems that might contain exoplanets, which is a major program for the observatory.

### Milky Way Galaxy , Size, Definition, & Facts , Britannica

The Milky Way Galaxy is organized into spiral arms of giant stars that illuminate interstellar gas



and dust. The Sun is in a finger called the Orion Spur. Graphic view of our Milky ...



### Solar System: A Semirealistic Model

all major (and some minor) celestial objects of the solar system with real characteristics, real high-resolution textures, mostly from NASA or ESA, or some derivative thereof (dwarf planets past Pluto have fictitious textures), realistic Milky Way background,

### **The Milky Way Galaxy**

Our Solar System is about 25,000 light years away from the center of our galaxy - we live in the suburbs of our galaxy. Just as the Earth goes around the Sun, the Sun goes around the center of the Milky Way. It takes 250 ...



### Planet Sizes in the Solar System

Most commonly, our solar system in its entirety is said to have a diameter of 287.46 billion km, a length which could fit 36 billion Earths. As large as this number sounds, our solar system compared to the Milky Way galaxy is about 160 million times smaller.



The Milky Way is 1.2 zettameters

The Milky Way compared to the Solar System: Even our entire solar system, from the Sun to the furthest planet Neptune, is incredibly tiny compared to the Milky Way. If the Milky Way was the size of a football field, our solar system would be the size of a dime!



**Milky Way Galaxy**

Our solar system--which includes the sun, Earth, and seven other planets--is part of this galaxy, called ... you guessed it ... the Milky Way. The Milky Way contains hundreds of billions of stars like our sun. (And like our sun, most of these stars have at least

**The Solar System**

The whole solar system, together with the local stars visible on a clear night, orbits the center of our home galaxy, a spiral disk of 200 billion stars we call the Milky Way. The Milky Way has two small galaxies orbiting it nearby, which are visible from the southern hemisphere.



Science 101: The Solar System

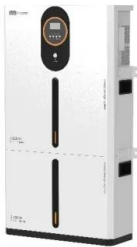
The solar system is located in the Milky Way's Orion star cluster. Only 15% of stars in the galaxy host planetary systems, and one of those stars is our own sun. Revolving around the sun are eight planets. The planets are divided into two categories based on



Milky Way galaxy: Facts about our cosmic ...

Just as Earth orbits the sun, the solar system orbits the center of the Milky Way. Despite hurtling through space at speeds of around 515,000mph (828,000kmph) our solar system takes

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**Milky Way - Exoplanet Exploration: Planets Beyond our Solar System**

Even though it is the same age as the Milky Way, Hubble observations reveal that the stars in Andromeda's halo are much younger than those in the Milky Way. From this and other evidence, astronomers infer that Andromeda has already smashed into ...

**How Many Solar Systems in the Milky Way: 2024 Free Guide**

Key Things to Know: The Milky Way contains billions of planetary systems, each potentially harboring unique solar systems. Stars and their life cycles play a critical role in forming solar systems. Space exploration and telescope advancements have expanded our



[News & Resources , Night Sky Network](#)

On that scale with our Solar System in your hand, the Milky Way Galaxy, with its 200 - 400 billion stars, would span North America (see the illustration on the right). Galaxies come in many sizes. The Milky Way is big, but some galaxies, like our Andromeda Galaxy neighbor, are much larger.





### [How the Milky Way works . Astronomy](#)

The Milky Way Galaxy is a self-gravitating system. All self-gravitating systems have a tendency to collapse in on themselves. And they would if it weren't for other forces counteracting or



### [A New Map of the Milky Way](#)

Hundreds of years ago explorers sailed across oceans and traversed uncharted continents to map Earth, and in the past half a century space probes have photographed most of our solar system. Yet as

### [83 Interesting Facts About Solar System](#)

Our solar system is about 26,000 light years away from the center of the Milky Way. You will find it right on the edge of the Orion-Cygnus arm. This image is dominated by NGC 7469, a luminous, face-on spiral galaxy approximately 90,000 light-years in diameter that lies roughly 220 million light-years from Earth in the constellation Pegasus.



### **The Milky Way**

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### Where is Earth in the Milky Way Galaxy?

Our solar system also orbits around the Milky Way's center, moving at about 230 kilometers per second. This journey takes a while--one full orbit, or "galactic year," lasts between 225-250 million years. From our steady spot in the Orion ...

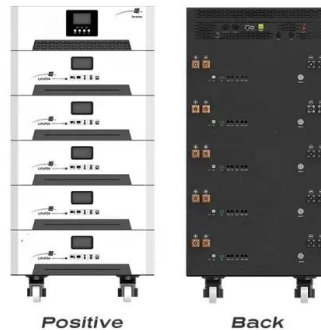


### **Solar System**

The Solar System's location in the Milky Way is a factor in the evolutionary history of life on Earth. Spiral arms are home to a far larger concentration of supernovae, gravitational instabilities, and radiation that could disrupt the Solar System, but ...

### **The Milky Way Galaxy**

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### **Moons of Our Solar System**

How Many Moons Are in Our Solar System? Naturally-formed bodies that orbit planets are called moons, or planetary satellites. The best-known planetary satellite is, of course, Earth's Moon. Since it was named before we learned about other planetary satellites, it is called simply "Moon." According to the NASA/JPL Solar System Dynamics team, the current tally [...]





## Galaxies

Our home galaxy is called the Milky Way. It's a spiral galaxy with a disk of stars spanning more than 100,000 light-years. Earth is located along one of the galaxy's spiral arms, about halfway from the center. Our solar system takes ...



## The Milky Way Galaxy

Our planet is part of a solar system that rotates in one of the smaller galactic branches known as the Local Arm. Earth's Sun is roughly two-thirds of the way out from what is probably a black ...

## The Milky Way: Earth's home galaxy , Astronomy

This disk is some 1,000 light-years thick and extends probably 75,000 light-years from the galactic center, placing the solar system a little more than a third of the way out in the disk.



## [Milky Way and Our Location](#)

Graphic view of our Milky Way Galaxy. The Milky Way Galaxy is organized into spiral arms of giant stars that illuminate interstellar gas and dust. The Sun is in a finger called the Orion Spur. Overlaid is a graphic of galactic longitude in relation to our Sun. Credit



## Solar System Exploration

The Milky Way is a barred spiral galaxy. 7. Room to Breathe. Our solar system has many worlds with many types of atmospheres. 8. Ring Worlds. The four giant planets - and at least one asteroid - have rings. 9. Getting Out There. More ...



## The Milky Way: Earth's home galaxy , Astronomy

our galaxy's spiral structure. The Carina Nebula (NGC 3372) ranks among the Milky Way's biggest stellar nurseries. It lies about 7,500 light-years from Earth and burst to life when its first

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