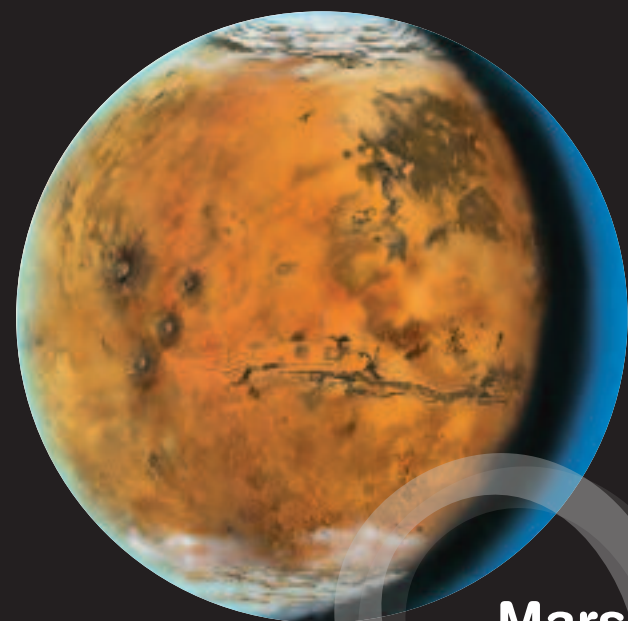





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Mars

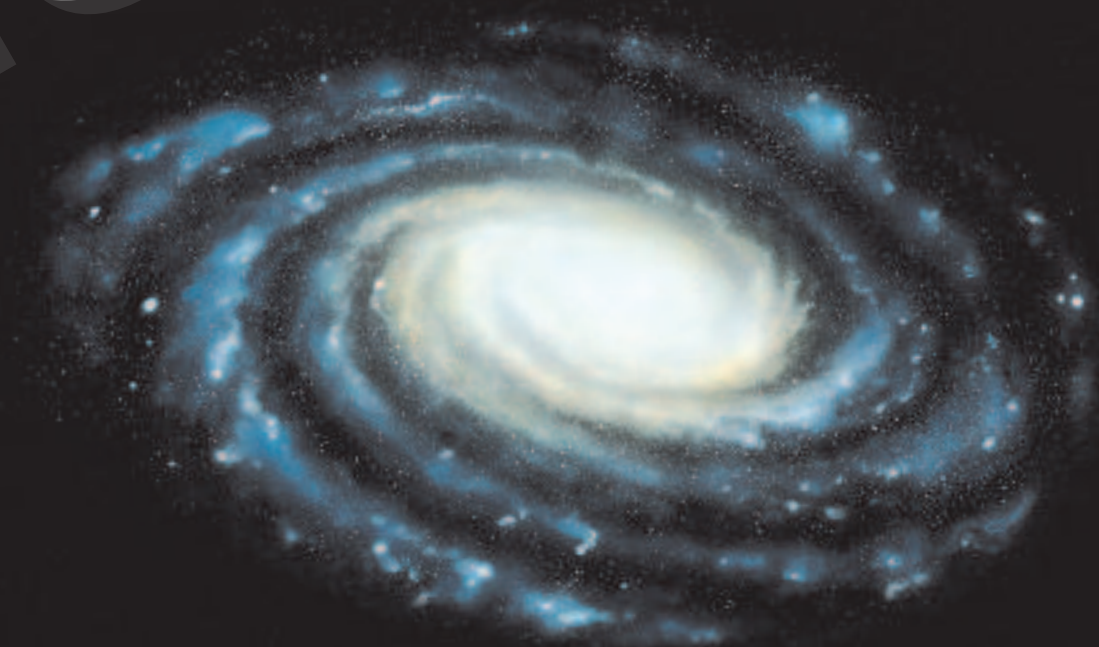
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**WE** THINK of space as the vast, dark expanse beyond our own planet Earth. The Sun's light fills the sky by day, of course, but at night other objects in space become visible: stars, the Milky Way, the Moon, shooting stars, and so on. We can see these objects because they glow, either with their own light, or with light reflected from the Sun.

This book also shows objects in space that glow. For the pages with special glow-in-the-dark text and illustrations, look for the pink corner squares. Hold the book open at any one of these pages under a light for twenty seconds or so, then turn out the light.

Have fun!



Milky Way Galaxy

## ABOUT THIS BOOK





**L**OOK UP at the sky on a clear night. What is the brightest thing you can see? On many nights it will be the Moon. It looks so large and bright

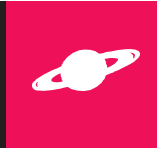
## THE SKY AT NIGHT

because it is our nearest neighbour in space.

Stars may look tiny, but in fact they are all gigantic, thousands of times the size of Earth!

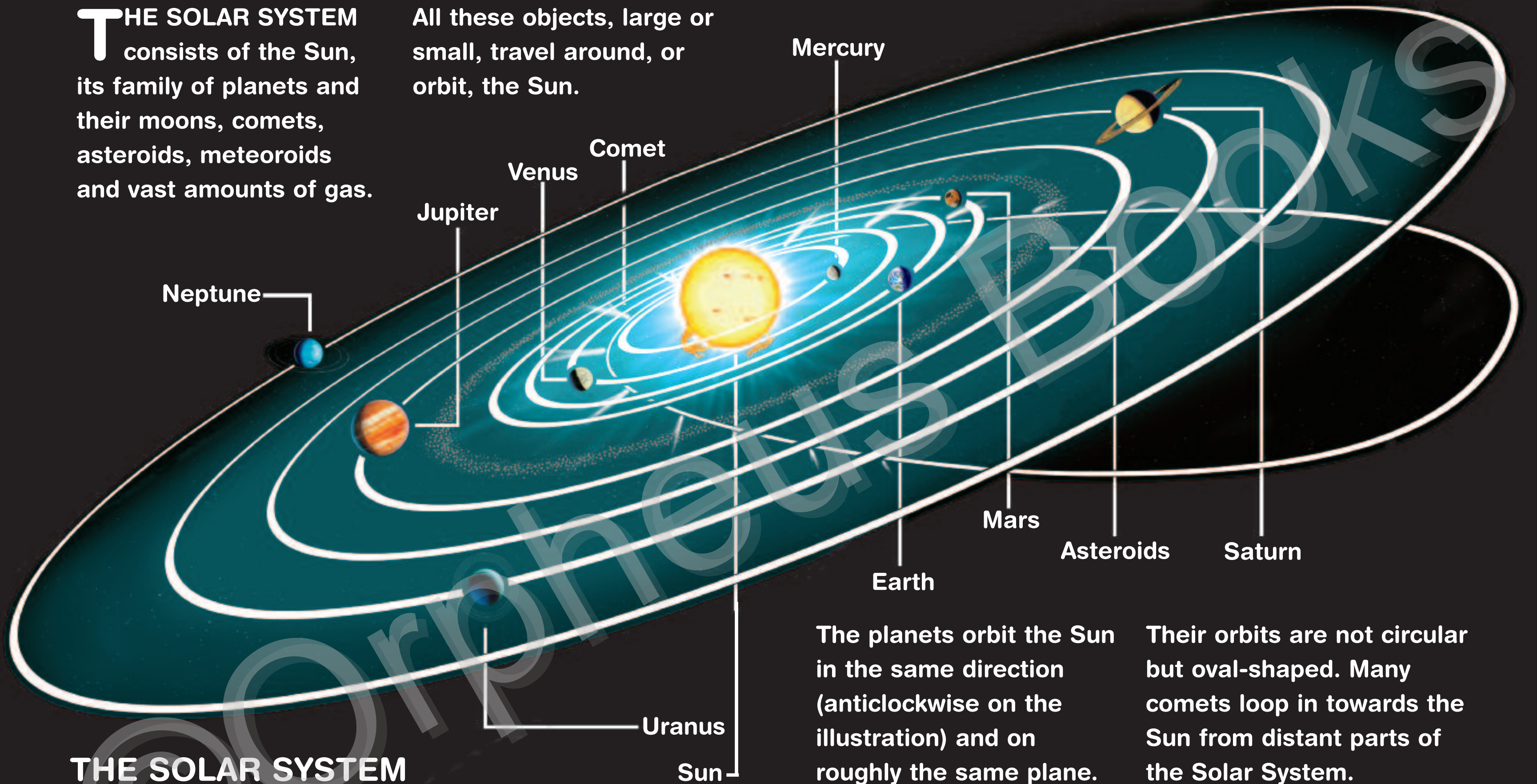
All the stars we can see belong to the Milky Way Galaxy. From Earth, our view of one of the Galaxy's spiral arms looks like a misty band across the heavens, the "milky way" from which the Galaxy takes its name.

Sometimes, you may be able to catch sight of a comet hanging in the sky. Look out, too, for meteors or "shooting stars", split-second streaks of light. They are tiny fragments burning up high above Earth.



**T**HE SOLAR SYSTEM consists of the Sun, its family of planets and their moons, comets, asteroids, meteoroids and vast amounts of gas.

All these objects, large or small, travel around, or orbit, the Sun.



**THE SOLAR SYSTEM**

The planets orbit the Sun in the same direction (anticlockwise on the illustration) and on roughly the same plane.

Their orbits are not circular but oval-shaped. Many comets loop in towards the Sun from distant parts of the Solar System.

