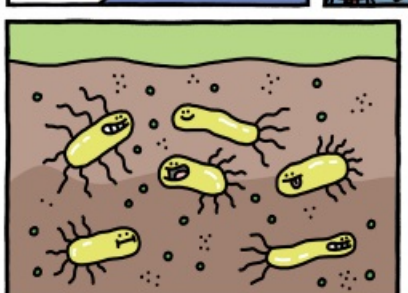
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FOR JAKE AND ALICE, MY BRIGHT SHINING STARS - MB

FOR JACOB, I AGREE, IT WOULD BE VERY BAD
IF A BLACK HOLE CAME TO OUR HOUSE - JB







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A DAY IN THE LIFE
OF AN ASTRONAUT, MARS AND THE DISTANT STARS



WRITTEN BY MIKE BARFIELD
ILLUSTRATED BY JESS BRADLEY

Buster Books



INTRODUCTION

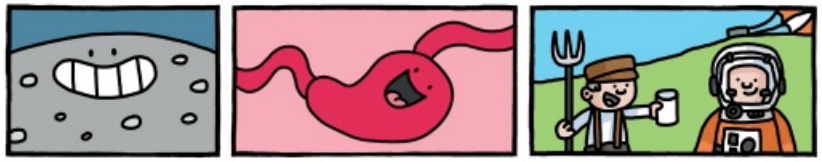
Welcome to *A Day in the Life of an Astronaut, Mars and the Distant Stars* – a laugh-out-loud guide to space that is completely out of this world!

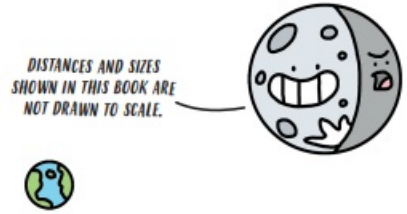
The book is split into three sections: The Solar System, Outer Space and Space Travel. Just like space itself, there's lots to discover and you can land anywhere to start exploring.

There are Day in the Life comics where the wonders of space show you what they get up to, Bigger Picture pages packed with added info, and Secret Diaries where the heroes of the cosmos spill the beans. Because the universe is so vast, there are also space-tastic, two-page Even Bigger Pictures.

You'll also find a galaxy-sized Glossary at the back of the book, to help you with any alien words you encounter on your travels.

It's time to launch yourself into space. You haven't got all day!



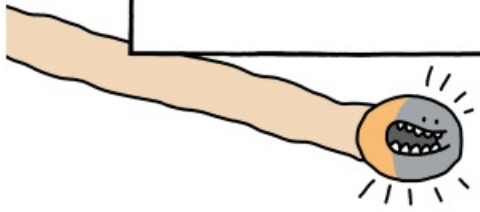




THE SOLAR SYSTEM

You could be forgiven for thinking that everything revolves around our nearest star, the Sun. In Earth's Solar System, most things do! From mini Mercury to giant Jupiter, all eight planets orbit the Sun, as does Earth itself.

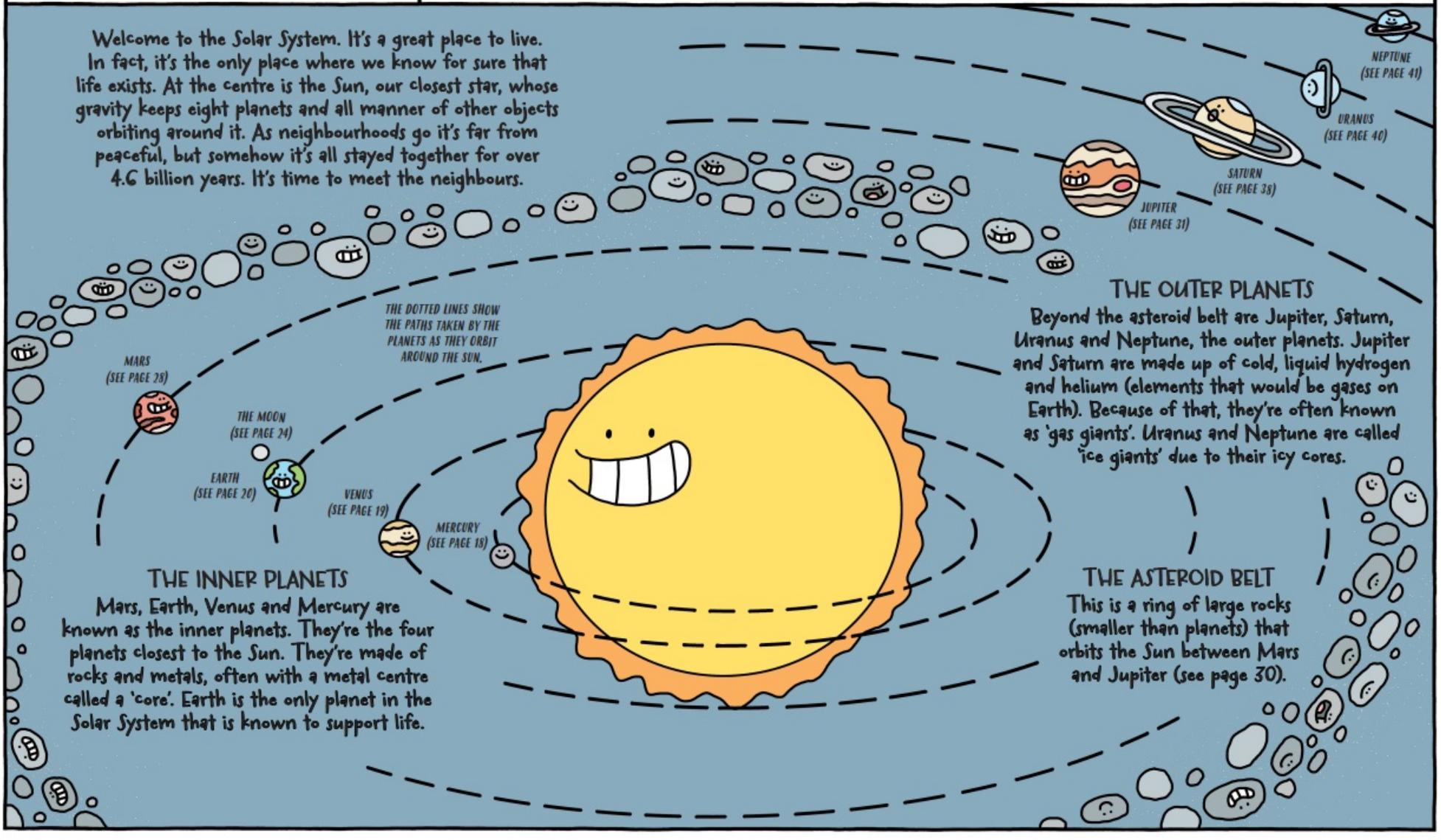
This section shines a light on each of those planets, along with the Moon, meteorites and much, much more.





MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

Welcome to the Solar System. It's a great place to live. In fact, it's the only place where we know for sure that life exists. At the centre is the Sun, our closest star, whose gravity keeps eight planets and all manner of other objects orbiting around it. As neighbourhoods go it's far from peaceful, but somehow it's all stayed together for over 4.6 billion years. It's time to meet the neighbours.



THE OUTER PLANETS

Beyond the asteroid belt are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, the outer planets. Jupiter and Saturn are made up of cold, liquid hydrogen and helium (elements that would be gases on Earth). Because of that, they're often known as 'gas giants'. Uranus and Neptune are called 'ice giants' due to their icy cores.

THE INNER PLANETS

Mars, Earth, Venus and Mercury are known as the inner planets. They're the four planets closest to the Sun. They're made of rocks and metals, often with a metal centre called a 'core'. Earth is the only planet in the Solar System that is known to support life.

THE ASTEROID BELT

This is a ring of large rocks (smaller than planets) that orbits the Sun between Mars and Jupiter (see page 30).