Seasons and Solar System Study Guide

Galileo discovered that the Sun was the center of the solar system, which means Heliocentric.

Geocentric is when the Earth is the center of the solar system

Seasons occur because of the tilt of Earth’s axis.

Earth rotates on it’s axis and revolves around the Sun.

Order of the planets: My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nachos

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

Inner Planets are – Mercury Venus Earth and Mars – also called Rocky Midgets or Terrestrial Planets because they are small rocky planets

Gas Giants are - Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune – Large gaseous planets with small cores.

Mercury – No moons or atmosphere – closest to the sun

Venus is Earth’s twin because it is similar in density and internal structure. Also the hottest planet because of it’s thick atmosphere

Mars – Earth’s little brother – it’s reddish color is due to iron rick rocks.

Jupiter – biggest planet in our solar system with giant red hurricane

Saturn – 2nd biggest planet and known for its ring

Uranus – tilted on it’s axis at a 90 degree angle

Neptune – cold, blue, with visible clouds

Pluto – declassified to a dwarf planet in 2006

Comets –“Dirty Snowballs” - loose collections of ice, dust, and small rocky particles. There orbits are usually very long, narrow ellipses

Meteoroid – bits of rock and ice that are in space

Meteor – when a meteoroid enters Earth atmosphere and creates a streak of light “shooting star”

Meteorite – A meteoroid that strikes Earth surface

Asteroid – big pieces of rock that are too small and too many to be considered planets. Usually found in asteroid belt which is located between Mars and Jupiter