

# LEARNING RESOURCE

# EARTH'S PLACE IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

# SOLAR SYSTEM MNEMONIC

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY K-6  
EARTH AND SPACE Stage 3

## SEE

Look over the page and what do you see?  
What links each sentence to the order of the planets?

## THINK

Take the first letter of each planet and list words that start with the same letter. Write them in the table below and try to make your own memorable sentence or mnemonic using the same pattern to help remember the correct order. Test it on your friends.

## WONDER

In 2006 the International Astronomical Union changed the definition of the word '*planet*' for our Solar System. Can you imagine what made them change their mind and why they decided that Pluto was not a planet but a dwarf planet?

PLANET					
Mercury					
Venus					
Earth					
Mars					
Jupiter					
Saturn					
Uranus					
Neptune					

## YOUR MNEMONIC

Write your sentence below.

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**Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, (Pluto)**

## **WHEN PLUTO WAS STILL CALLED A PLANET:**

My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas  
Make Very Easy Mash Just Squash Up New Potatoes  
My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Naming Planets  
My Very Evil Mother's Jokes Sometimes Upset Nervous People  
Many Very Early Mammals Journeyed South Unto New Pastures  
Mary Very Easily Makes Jam, So You Needn't Panic

And these are written by people who obviously disagree with the IAU and think Pluto should stay a planet:

**Many Very Earnest Men Just Snubbed Unfortunate Ninth Planet**

## **AFTER PLUTO WAS RECLASSIFIED AS A 'DWARF' PLANET:**

My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Noodles  
Most Vexing Experience, Mother Just Served Us Nothing!  
My Very Evil Mother Just Sent Us Nothing  
My Very Educated Mother Just Said 'Um, No'  
Many Venetian Explorers Might Just Sail Until Nightfall  
My Very Elegant Mnemonic Just Stops Under Nine  
My Very Elderly Mother Just Sits Up Nights  
Major Volcanoes Erupt, Making Jolts, Shaking, Unsteady Nerves  
Make Very Extraordinary Meals of Jelly, Strawberries and Unsalted Nuts

And this one is supposed to be spoken by Clyde Tombaugh who discovered Pluto:

**My Vision, Erased. Mercy! Just Some Underachiever Now**