EXPLORE THE SOLAR SYSTEM WITH CLIPS FROM BBC PROGRAMMES

WELCOME TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Watch video clips from classic BBC television programmes about the Solar System. The videos cover topics including the planets, moons and astronauts from series such as The Planets, The Sky at Night and Horizon. Coming soon: Content from the radio archive as well as more video clips and topics.

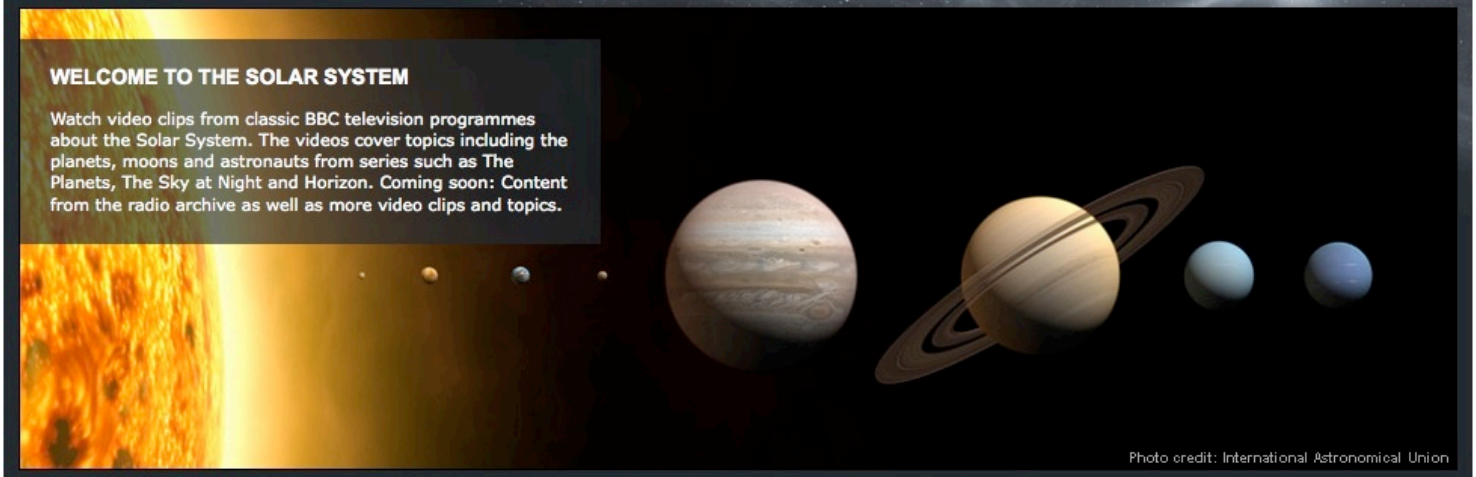
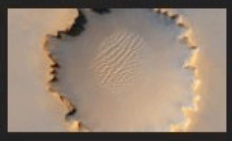


Photo credit: International Astronomical Union

EXPLORE ASTRONOMY TOPICS

View all topics

The Sun and the planets [9 topics]



Mars
The Red Planet continues to fascinate mankind.

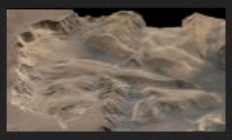
Moons [19 topics]

Deimos
One of Mars' tiny moons, Deimos was discovered in 1877.

Other Solar System bodies [4 topics]

Asteroids
Minor planets orbit between Mars and Jupiter.

Solar System highlights [8 topics]



Valles Marineris
On Earth, this massive Martian canyon would stretch from Los Angeles to New York.

Space missions [36 topics]

Luna programme
Soviet Moon probes achieve a number of firsts.

Astronauts [6 topics]

Jim Lovell
An American astronaut narrowly escapes death on his fourth space flight.

Scientists [9 topics]

Asaph Hall
A careful observer discovers Mars' moons.

SPACE ON THE BBC

'Tuned' images from Esa's Smos water mission

The first fully calibrated images from the European Space Agency's Smos satellite have now been released.

Nasa rides 'bucking bronco' to Mars

It weighs almost a tonne, has cost more than $2bn and, in 2013, it will be lowered on to the surface of Mars with a landing system that has never been tried before.

Space rock contains organic molecular feast

Scientists say that a meteorite that crashed into Earth 40 years ago contains millions of different carbon-containing, or organic, molecules.

Cassini detection adds to Enceladus liquid water story

There seems little doubt that Saturn's moon Enceladus hides a large body of liquid water beneath its icy skin.

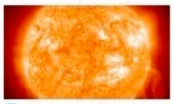
SOLAR SYSTEM TOPICS

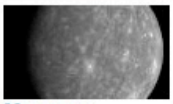
About Astronomy

GO TO ASTRONOMY TOPICS

THE SUN AND THE PLANETS View more information

Show all [9]


Sun

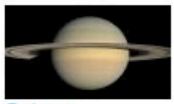

Mercury

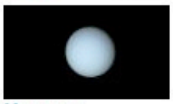

Venus


Earth


Mars


Jupiter


Saturn


Uranus

MOONS View more information

Show all [19]


Titania


Io

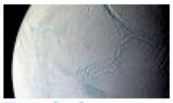

Rhea


Europa


Iapetus


Deimos


Amalthea


Enceladus

OTHER SOLAR SYSTEM BODIES View more information


Kuiper Belt

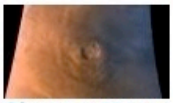

Pluto


Asteroids


Comets

SOLAR SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS View more information


Martian canals


Olympus Mons

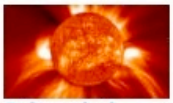

Sunspot cycle


Saturn's rings


Great Red Spot


Valles Marineris


Aurora


Solar wind

SPACE MISSIONS View more information

Show all [36]


Apollo 13


Voyager 1


Luna 9


Mars Pathfinder


Surveyor programme


Gemini programme


Apollo programme


Viking 1 and 2

ASTRONAUTS View more information


Edgar Mitchell


Jim Lovell


Buzz Aldrin


Pete Conrad

Harrison Schmitt

Neil Armstrong

SCIENTISTS View more information

Show all [9]

Christiaan Huygens

George Hale

Asaph Hall

Galileo Galilei

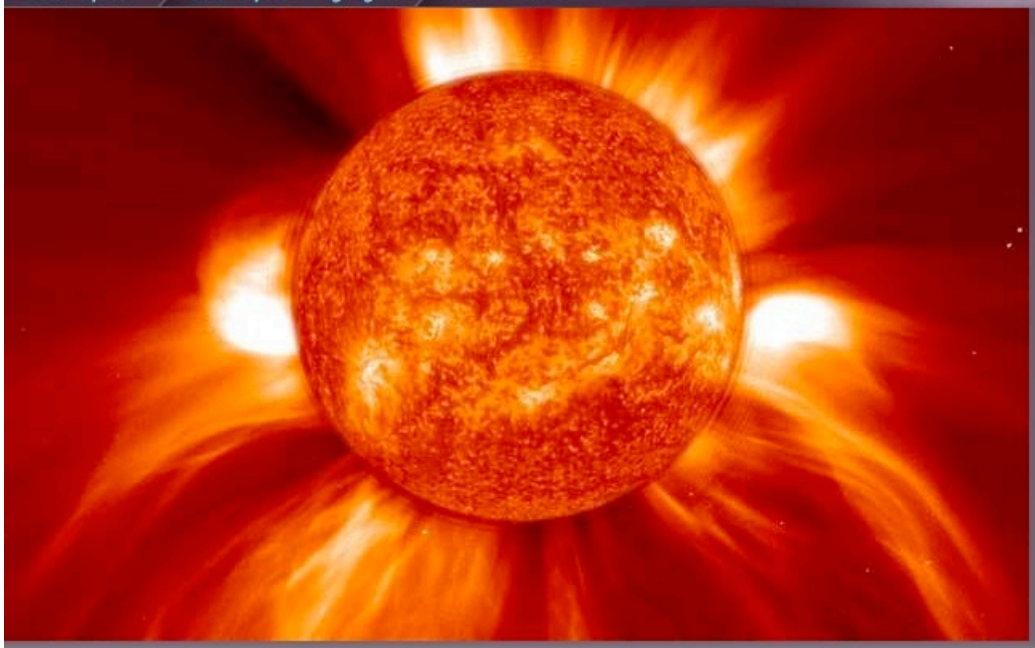
Robert Hooke

Sergei Korolev

Clyde Tombaugh

Percival Lowell

SOLAR WIND



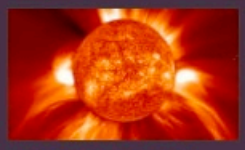
About Solar wind

A continuous stream of charged particles - mainly electrons and protons - escapes the Sun's powerful gravity and races across the Solar System. Observers at high latitudes on Earth sometimes see lights in the night sky known as auroras, the result of the solar wind interacting with the Earth's magnetic field and atmosphere. The solar wind's outer limit defines the heliosphere, a huge "bubble" in space that contains all the planets and has the Sun at its centre.

Photo: A coronal mass ejection taken by the SOHO probe (ESA/NASA)

WATCH AND LISTEN TO CLIPS FROM PAST PROGRAMMES

TV [2 videos]



About Solar wind
Charged particles race across the Solar System.

Saturn's magnetic field
Sir Patrick Moore's guests discuss Saturn's magnetic field and storms.

Raging solar wind
A constant stream of particles from the Sun stretches beyond the outer planets.

ABOUT SOLAR WIND

The solar wind is a stream of charged particles ejected from the upper atmosphere of the sun. It consists mostly of electrons and protons with energies usually between 10 and 100 eV. The stream of particles varies in temperature and speed with the passage of time. These particles are able to escape the sun's gravity because of the high temperature of the corona and high kinetic energy of the particles.

The solar wind creates the heliosphere, a vast bubble in the interstellar medium surrounding the solar system. Other phenomena include geomagnetic storms that can knock out power grids on Earth, the aurorae (northern and southern lights) and the plasma tails of comets that always point away from the sun.

Read more at Wikipedia

CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY

Occurs on ..... Sun

ELSEWHERE ON THE WEB

ESA: Solar wind
NASA: Solar wind
The Nine Planets: The Sun
NASA World Book: The Sun