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The Solar System

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| **Across****2.** a planet whose orbit lies within the asteroid belt, i.e., Mercury, Venus, Earth, or Mars**7.** the time taken by a planet to make one revolution around the sun**11.** a small rocky body orbiting the sun**12.** a small body of matter from outer space that enters the earth's atmosphere, becoming incandescent as a result of friction and appearing as a streak of light**13.** a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust and, when near the sun, a “tail” of gas and dust particles pointing away from the sun**15.** a large planet of relatively low density consisting predominantly of hydrogen and helium, such as Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, or Neptune**16.** the envelope of gases surrounding the earth or another planet**17.** a large, usually reddish gaseous vortex on the surface of Jupiter | **Down****1.** a celestial body resembling a small planet but lacking certain technical criteria that are required for it to be classed as such**3.** a planet whose orbit lies outside the asteroid belt, i.e., Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, or Neptune**4.** the force that attracts a body toward the center of the earth, or toward any other physical body having mass**5.** a small planetary body orbiting the sun**6.** the curved path of a celestial object or spacecraft around a star, planet, or moon, especially a periodic elliptical revolution**8.** the collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit around the sun, together with smaller bodies in the form of asteroids, meteoroids, and comets**9.** a small body moving in the solar system that would become a meteor if it entered the earth's atmosphere**10.** a planet that is composed primarily of silicate rocks or metals**14.** a celestial body moving in an elliptical orbit around a star  |