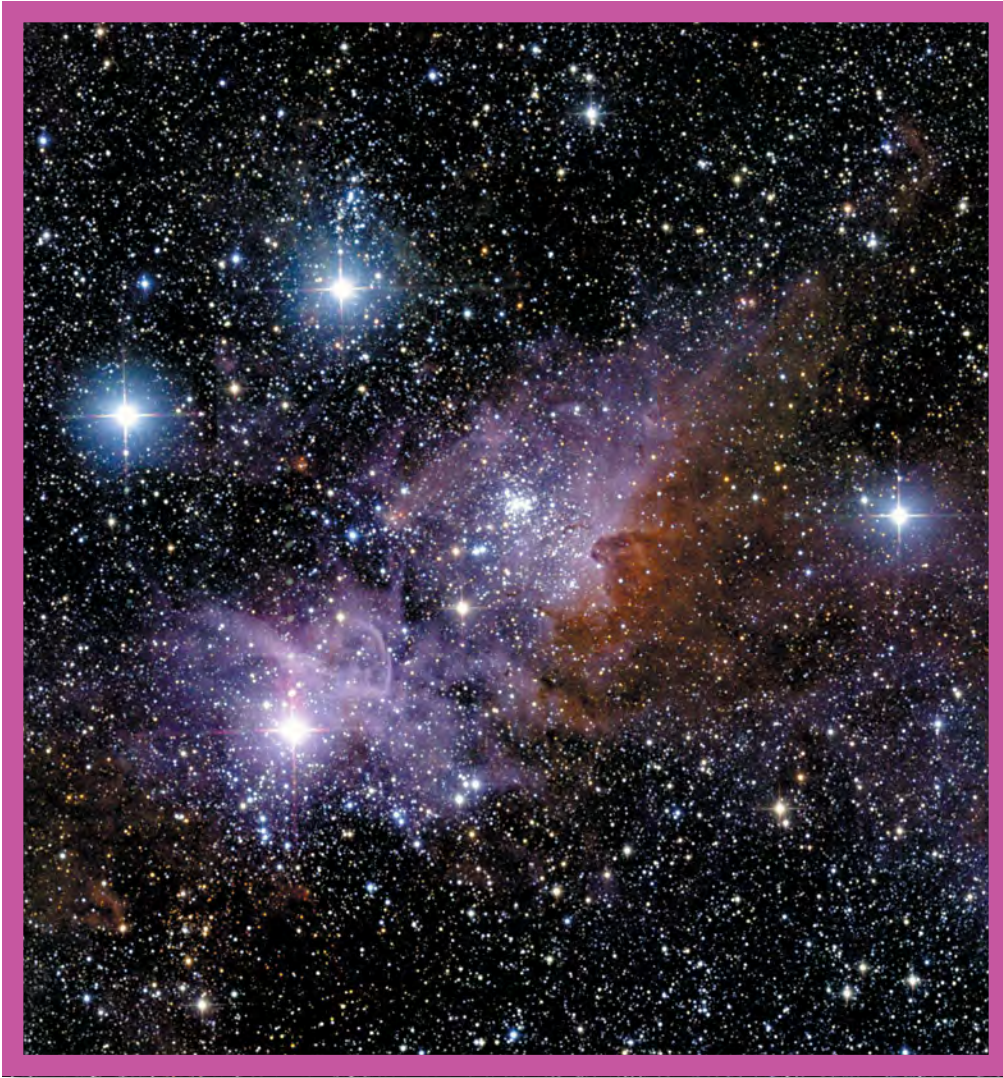
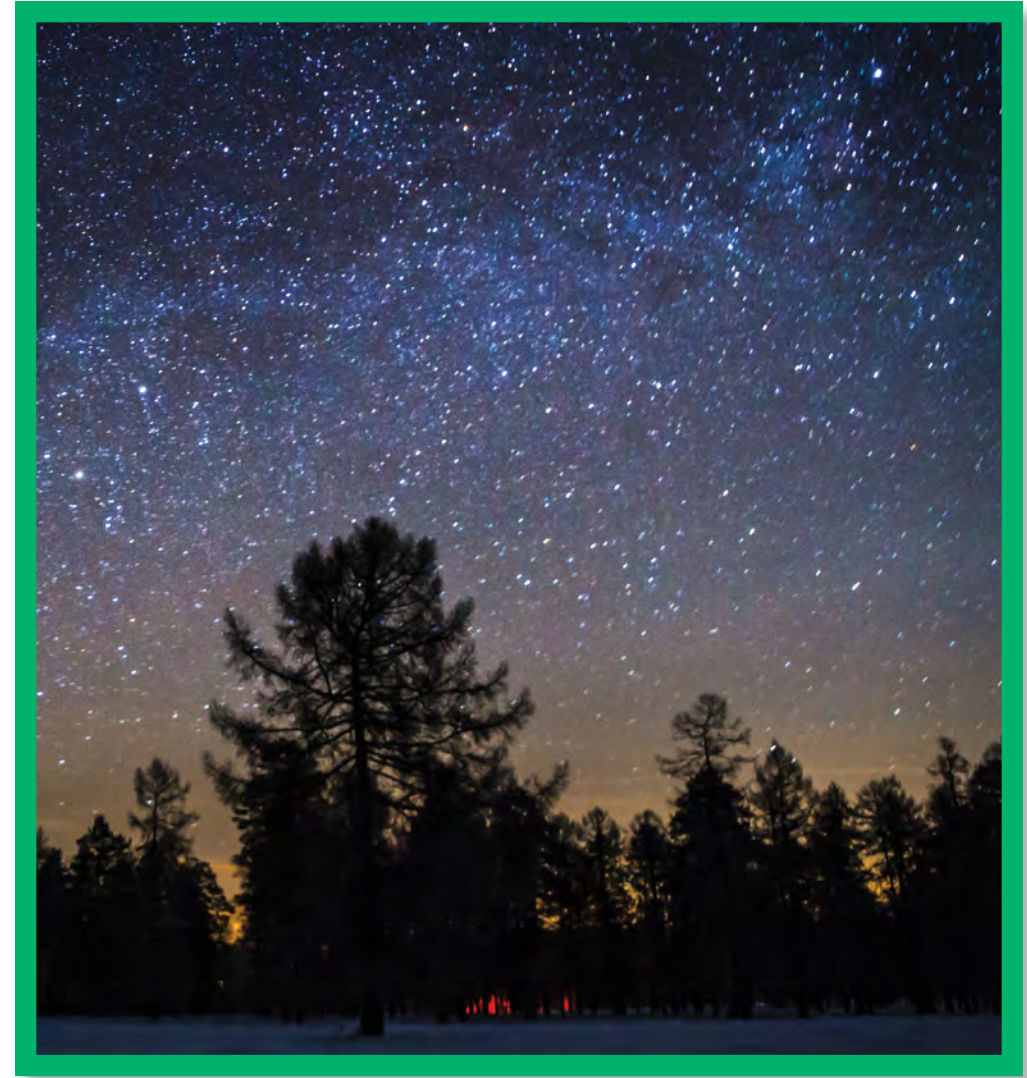


Carina Nebula



- 🔭 Let's take a journey into space, where we will see wondrous sights and make incredible discoveries.
- What is space? Space is the **universe**. The **universe** contains everything—including all the stars and planets and all the empty expanses in between them.



- 🔭 Have you ever looked up at the sky? It seems so big and there are so many stars! Yet, what we see in our sky is only a very tiny part of the **universe**.



*Orion Nebula (a huge expanse of dust and gas in our galaxy where many new stars are being created)*



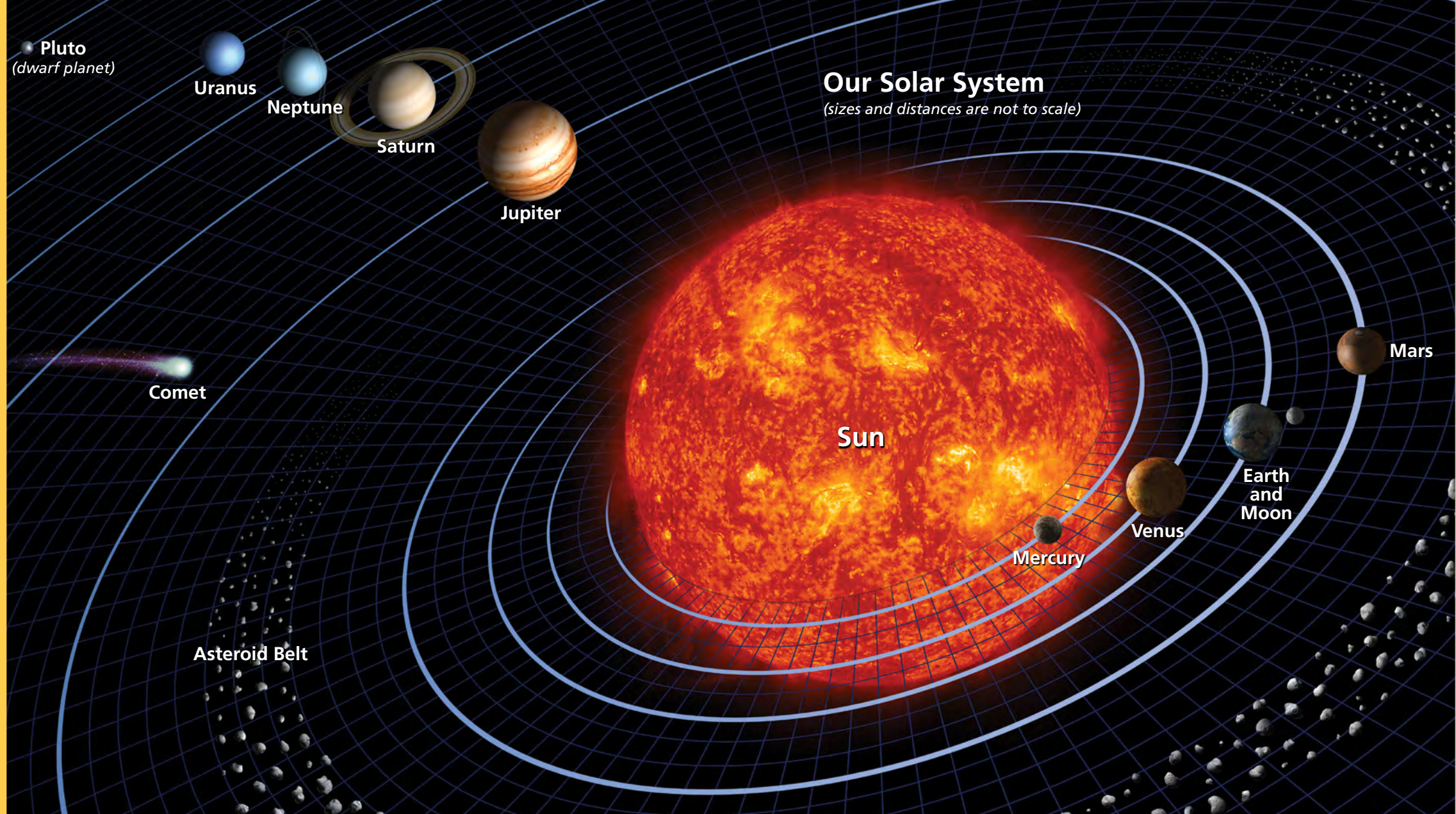
- 👁️ A galaxy is a large system of stars held together in a group by gravity. We are in a galaxy called the **Milky Way**, and the stars that we are able to see in our night sky are part of our galaxy. We can see many more of the stars in our galaxy through the use of a telescope.

*Milky Way galaxy*



- 👁️ Long ago, people could only look at the stars with their eyes. Most of the stars of the **Milky Way** just looked like a white streak in the sky.



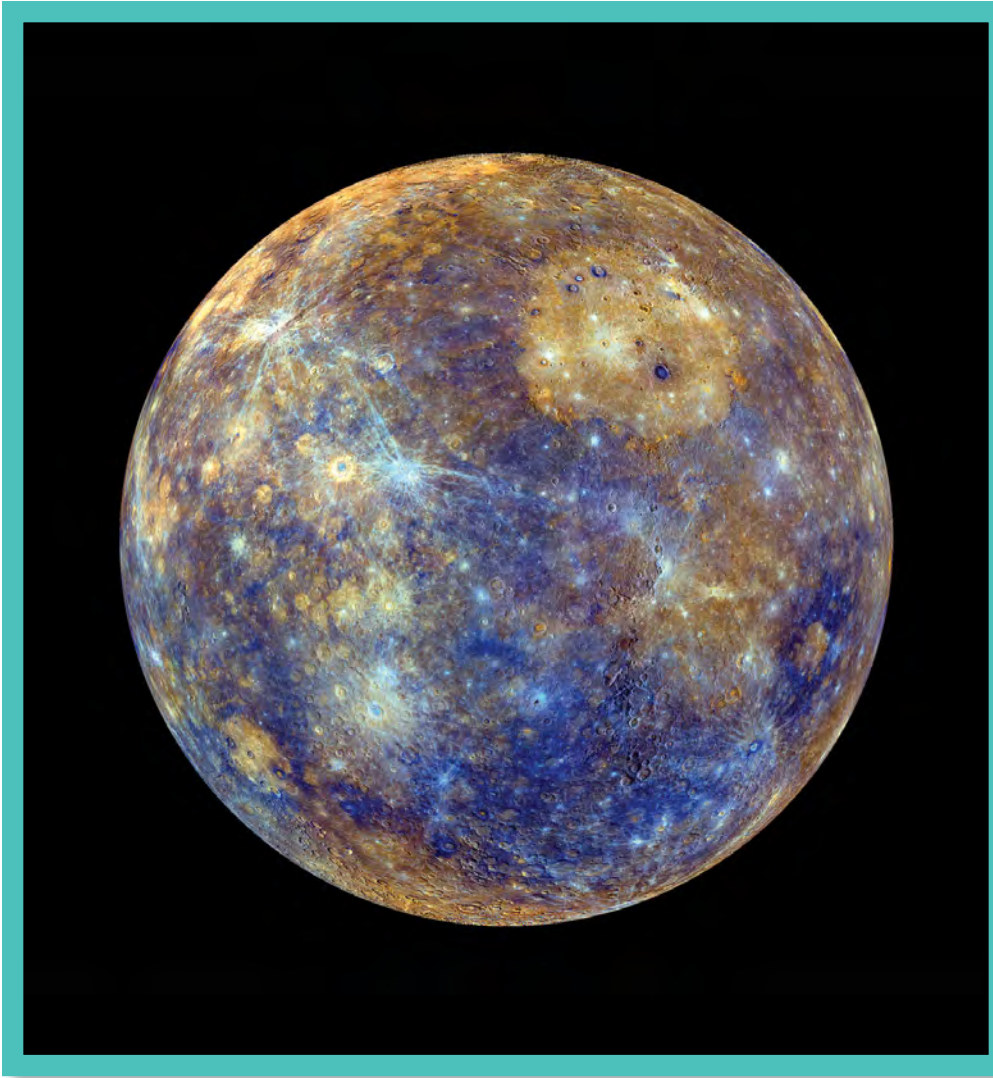


☾ Within a galaxy there may be many **solar systems**. A **solar system** is made up of a sun and everything that moves around it. Our **solar system** exists within the Milky Way galaxy. It includes all the planets and their moons, as well as the comets, asteroids, and space objects that orbit, or move in circles, around our sun.

☾ A star with planets around it is called a sun. There is a sun at the center of every **solar system**. Without our sun, there could be no life in our **solar system**.



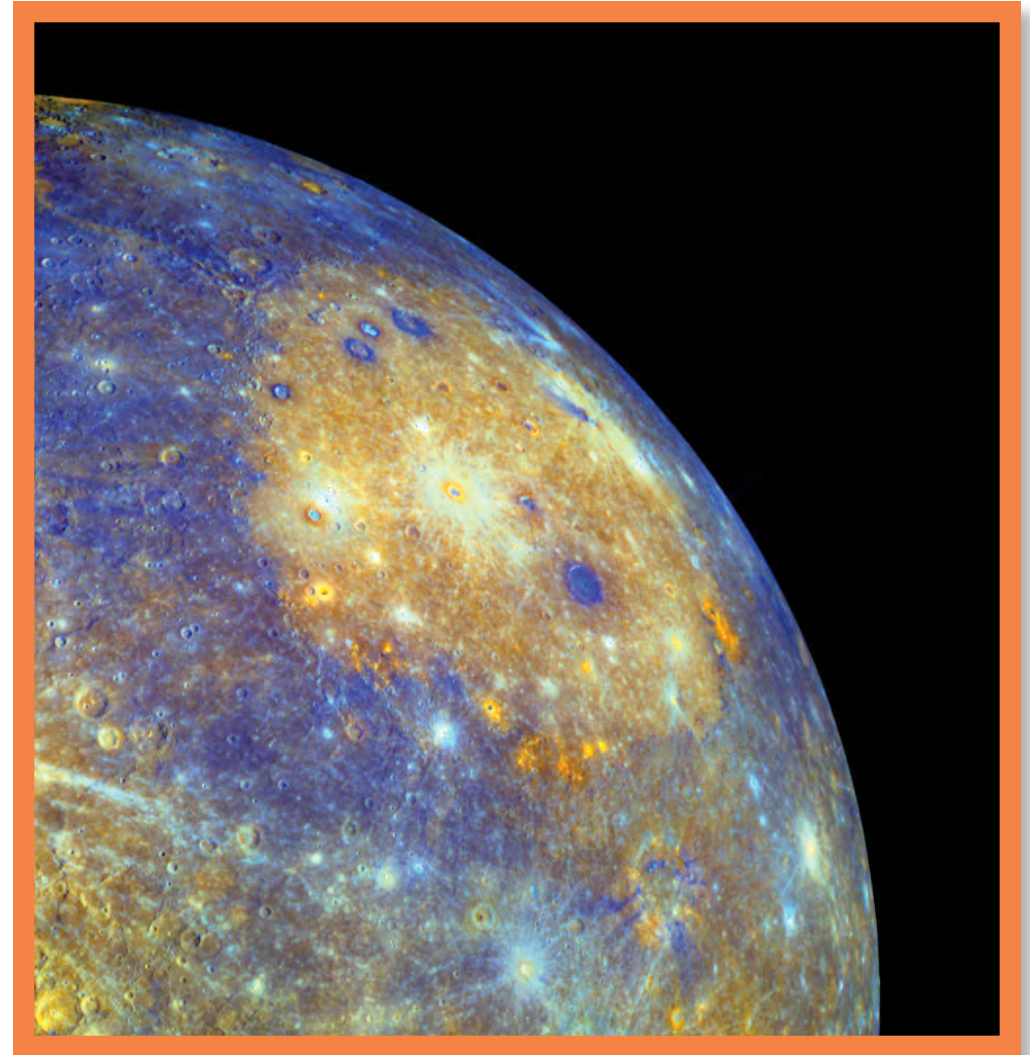
Planet Mercury (Colors are not accurate but show the different types of rocks on the surface.)



☾ The planet we live on is called **Earth**. As far as we know, it is the only planet in our solar system that has life on it. Other planets in our solar system are **Mercury**, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

**Mercury** is the closest planet to our sun. The temperature on the planet's surface is hot enough to melt a tin pan.

Closer view of Mercury showing craters and the great Caloris basin (large tan area)



☾ **Mercury** is a small planet. It is much smaller than **Earth** but bigger than our moon. It is very, very hot on **Mercury**. It is much too hot for people to live there!