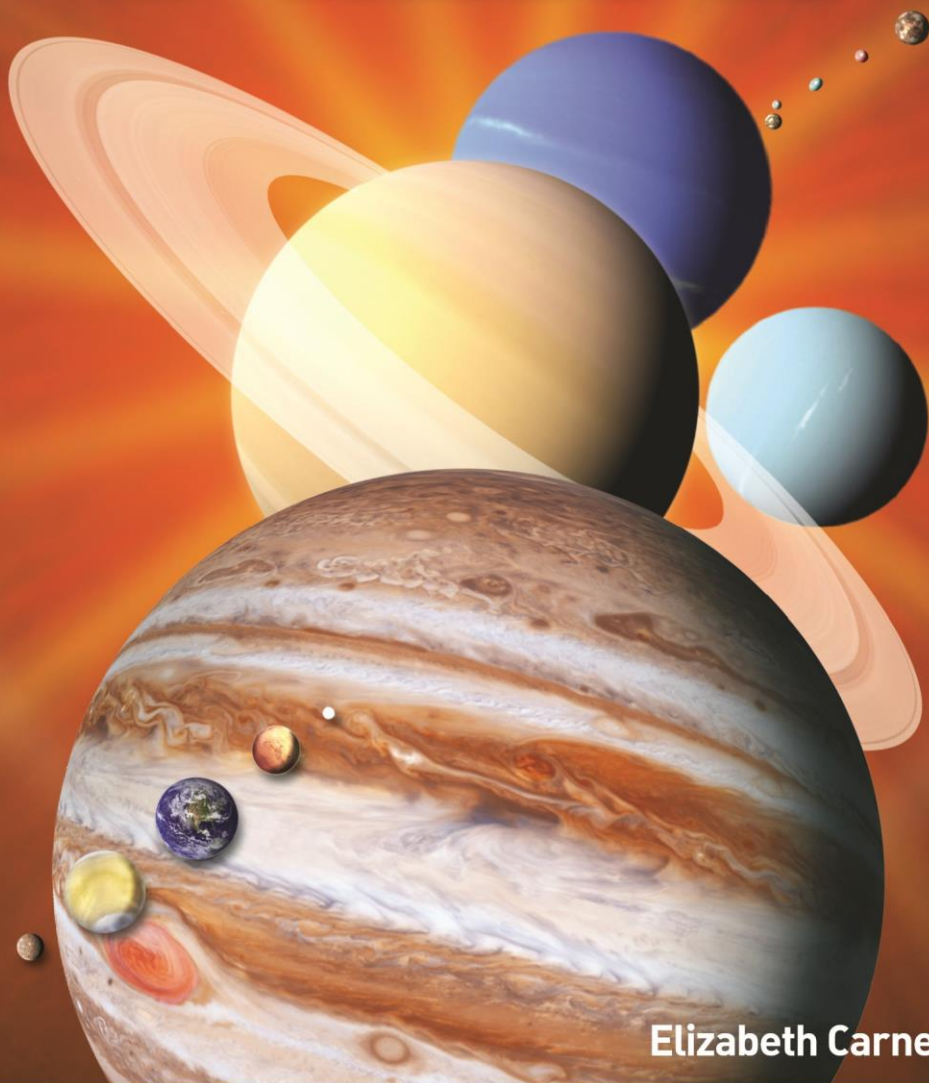


LEVEL  
**3**

 NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC  
**KIDS**

# Planets



Elizabeth Carney

Every National Geographic Kids Reader is carefully selected to match your child's reading ability.

### Level 1 • Early reader

**Level 1** These books contain simple sentences and are just right for kids who can decode with ease and are beginning to read fluently. They are ideal for readers of **Yellow** and **Blue** banded books.

### Level 2 • Becoming fluent

**Level 2** These books are a good match for kids who are developing reading stamina and enjoy a longer book. They are ideal for readers of **Green**, **Orange** and **Turquoise** banded books.

### Level 3 • Becoming independent

**Level 3** Best suited to kids who are ready for complex sentences and more challenging vocabulary, but still draw on occasional support from adults. They are ideal for readers of **Purple** and **Gold** banded books.

### Level 4 • Independent reader

**Level 4** Perfect for kids who are reading on their own with ease and are ready for more challenging vocabulary with varied sentence

structures. They are ideal for readers of **White** and **Lime** banded books.

**'Banded books' refers to the Institute of Education (University of London) Book Bands for guided reading.**



LEVEL  
3

# Planets

Elizabeth Carney



Washington, D.C.





Published by Collins  
An imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers  
The News Building  
1 London Bridge Street  
London  
SE1 9GF

Browse the complete Collins catalogue at  
[www.collins.co.uk](http://www.collins.co.uk)

In association with National Geographic  
Partners, LLC  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC and the Yellow Border  
Design are trademarks of the National  
Geographic Society, used under license.  
Second edition 2018

First published 2012

Copyright ©2012 National Geographic  
Partners, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Copyright ©2018 British English edition  
National Geographic Partners, LLC. All Rights  
Reserved.

ISBN 978-0-00-831729-4

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

All rights reserved. No part of this publication  
may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval  
system, or transmitted, in any form or by any  
means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying,  
recording or otherwise without the prior  
permission in writing of the publisher and  
copyright owners.

The contents of this publication are believed  
correct at the time of printing. Nevertheless  
the publisher can accept no responsibility for  
errors or omissions, changes in the detail  
given or for any expense or loss thereby  
caused.

HarperCollins does not warrant that any  
website mentioned in this title will be provided  
uninterrupted, that any website will be error  
free, that defects will be corrected, or that the  
website or the server that makes it available  
are free of viruses or bugs. For full terms and

conditions please refer to the site terms  
provided on the website.

A catalogue record for this book is available  
from the

British Library

Printed by GPS, Slovenia

If you would like to comment on any aspect of  
this book, please contact us at the above  
address or online.

[natgeokidsbooks.co.uk](http://natgeokidsbooks.co.uk)

[cseducation@harpercollins.co.uk](mailto:cseducation@harpercollins.co.uk)

Paper from responsible sources

Since 1888, the National Geographic Society  
has funded more than 12,000 research,  
exploration, and preservation projects around  
the world. The Society receives funds from  
National Geographic Partners, LLC, funded in  
part by your purchase. A portion of the  
proceeds from this book supports this vital  
work. To learn more, visit  
<http://natgeo.com/info>.

**Photo Credits** cover, David Aguilar; 1, Earth  
Imaging/Getty Images; 4-5, © Jeffrey T.  
Kreulen/Shutterstock; 6-7, SuperStock;  
8-9, NASA; 9 (top), NASA 10-11, NASA/Photo  
Researchers/  
Getty Images; 12 (left), Albert Klein/Oxford  
Scientific RM/  
Getty Images; 12 (right), Albert Klein/Oxford  
Scientific  
RM/Getty Images; 13 (left), David Aguilar; 13  
(right),  
NASA; 14-15, SuperStock; 15 (left), Mikhail  
Markovskiy/  
Shutterstock; 15 (top right), Willyam  
Bradberry/  
Shutterstock; 15 (bottom right), Galyna  
Andrushko/  
Shutterstock; 16, NASA; 17, Steve A.  
Munsinger/Photo  
Researchers RM/Getty Images; 18 (bottom  
left), David

Aguilar; 18 (bottom right), David Aguilar; 18 (centre), David Aguilar; 18 (top), David Aguilar; 19, David Aguilar; 20 (top), Ian McKinnell/Getty Images; 20 (centre), Albert Klein/Oxford Scientific RM/Getty Images; 20 (bottom), Albert Klein/Oxford Scientific RM/Getty Images; 21 (centre), NASA; 21 (bottom), Dr. Mark Garlick; 22, Digital Vision/Getty Images; 23 (centre), Albert Klein/Oxford Scientific RM/Getty Images; 23 (top), NASA; 23 (centre), Albert Klein/Oxford Scientific RM/Getty Images;

23 (bottom), NASA; 25, NASA/Science Source/Photo Researchers RM/Getty Images; 26, Reuters/Corbis; 27, NASA/JPL-Caltech; 28, PhotoResearchers/Getty Images; 29, Ludek Pesek/National Geographic Stock; 30 (top), NASA; 30 (centre), NASA; 30 (bottom), Photolink/Getty Images; 31 (top left), Ismael Jorda/Shutterstock; 31 (top right), NASA; 31 (bottom left), Image Source/Getty Images; 31 (bottom right), NASA; 32 (top), Photolink/Photodisc/Getty Images; 32 (centre), NASA/Photo Researchers RM/Getty Images; 32 (bottom), NASA; background, David Aguilar; header, David Aguilar; Space Clues, David Aguilar



|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Meet the Planets. . . . .   | 4  |
| What is a Planet? . . . . . | 6  |
| The Sun. . . . .            | 8  |
| Our Solar System . . . . .  | 10 |
| The Inner Planets. . . . .  | 12 |
| Your Planet Earth. . . . .  | 14 |
| The Gas Giants. . . . .     | 16 |
| Dwarf Planets. . . . .      | 18 |
| Amazing Planets. . . . .    | 20 |
| Moons Galore! . . . . .     | 22 |
| Our Moon. . . . .           | 24 |
| Exploring Space . . . . .   | 26 |
| Stump Your Parents. . . . . | 30 |
| Glossary. . . . .           | 32 |

# Table of Contents

# Meet the Planets

If you look up at the night sky, you can see some planets! From Earth, we can see the planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn without using a telescope. They look like bright dots of light.





**Venus**

# What is a Planet?

Most of the lights in the night sky are stars. Planets look a bit like stars, but they don't twinkle.



## Space Clues

**ORBIT:** The path an object follows around another object, such as a star

**REFLECT:** To bounce back



Planets are round objects that orbit a star. Most stars have planets moving around them. Planets don't create their own light. They only reflect light from stars.





# The Sun

The Sun is our star. Our planet

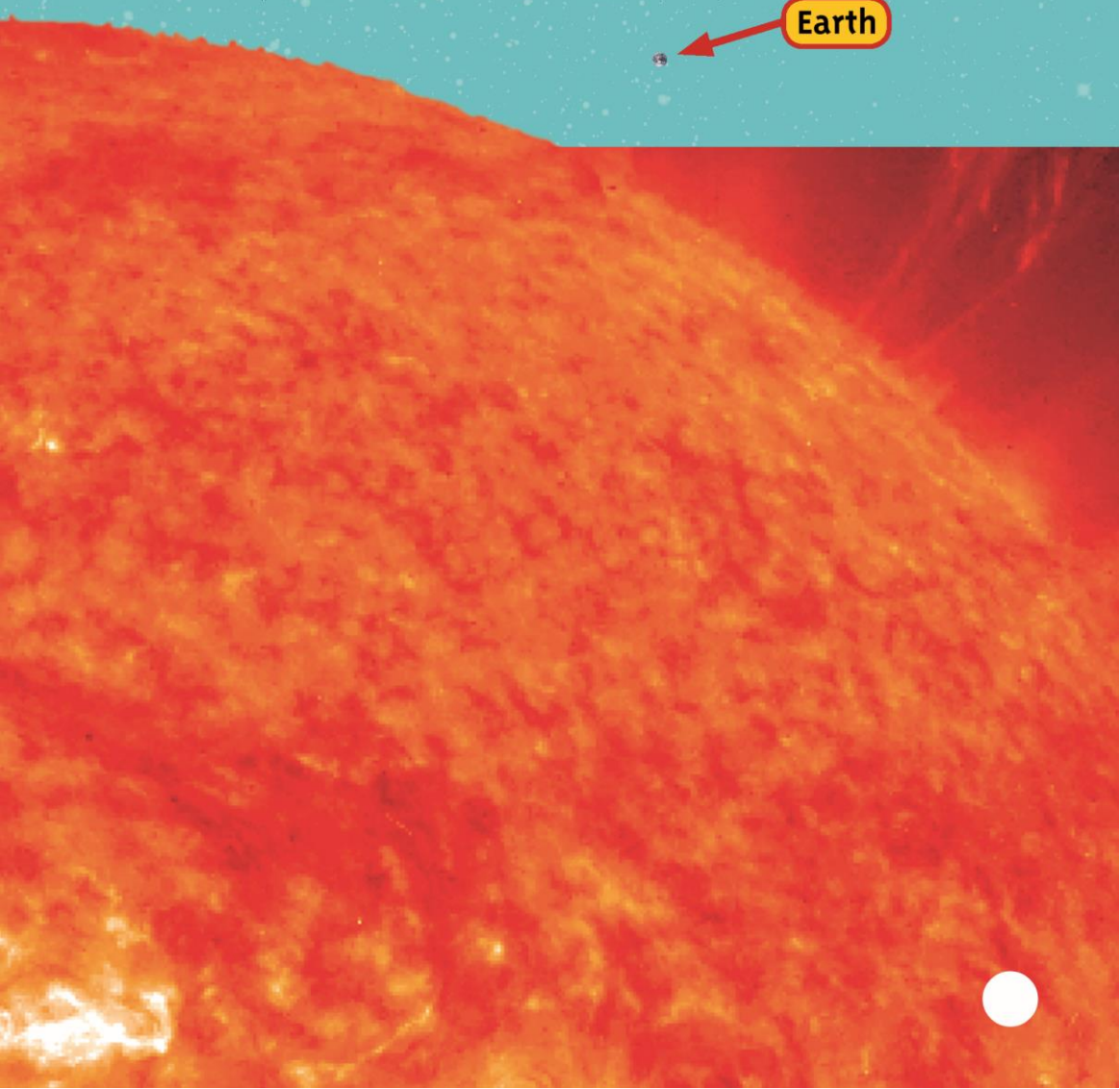
The Sun

Don't look directly  
at the Sun. It could  
hurt your eyes.



Its surface is about 100 times  
hotter than a hot summer day! It's

S





# Our Solar System

A diagram of the inner solar system. On the left is a large, glowing orange and red Sun. To its right are the orbits of four planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. Each planet is shown as a small sphere on its respective orbit, with a yellow label above it. The background is a dark blue and black space with some light streaks.

**Our Sun and Earth are part of what we call our solar system. There are eight big planets and five small, dwarf planets in the solar system.**