

# Morning Starters: Spring 2 - The Planets

## Word Challenge

“My very eager mother just served us noodles.”

Use the above mnemonic to list the planets in their order from the sun.

Now create your own ‘planet order’ mnemonic.

## Grammar Challenge

Click text to edit 

Choose one of the following sentences and complete it with an effective simile.

- 1) The planet’s gigantic waterfalls were like ...
- 2) The planet glowed in the night sky like ...

### Example:

The planet glowed in the night sky like a burning ember.

## Did You Know?

Mars is a dry, rocky, cold planet. It’s one of Earth’s closest neighbours, along with Venus. It’s easy to spot in the night sky as a bright red dot. Billions of years ago, Mars was home to the largest waterfall in our solar system, which carved deep canyons as water rushed across its surface! The planet’s red appearance comes from iron oxide, or rust. This rust is the result of ancient chemical reactions between Mars’s surface rocks and the water, which once existed there.



Credit: BBC Two - The Planets

## Number Challenge

**Fact:** One year on Mars is 687 Earth days. This is almost twice as long as one year on Earth.

**Reach (or get close to) a target of 243 by using some (or all) of the 4 operations and the following numbers:**

|    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | 30 | 20 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|

**Help:** You could make the numbers 700 and 13 and use subtraction to reach the target number.

## Critical Thinking

A Mars rover is a robotic machine that is designed to explore the surface of Mars.

**Make a quick sketch of a Mars rover and label its key features.**