

The Solar System

Name:

Date:

INQUIRY

China's Tianwen-1 rover is driving on Mars right now. How far from Earth is it?

Discuss with your partner. Write your initial ideas below:

Key Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Solar system	The Sun and everything orbiting it.
Planet	Large body orbiting a star, cleared its orbit.
AU	Astronomical unit — Earth-Sun distance (150 million km).

Part A — Planets

1. List the 8 planets in order from the Sun. Classify each as rocky or gas giant. [4 marks]

2. Name 3 differences between inner (rocky) planets and outer (gas) planets. [3 marks]

Part B — Scale

3. Mars is 1.52 AU from the Sun. If 1 AU = 150 million km, how far is Mars? [2 marks]

Show your working:

4. If the Sun were a basketball, Earth would be a peppercorn 26 m away. Where would Jupiter be? Research or estimate. [2 marks]