Topic: Modern Astronomy
Aim:

The Sun

- an average-sized star
- cooler dark spots known as sunspots reappear cyclically every 11 years

Characteristic	Terrestrial Planets	Jovian Planets
Distance from Sun		
Period of Revolution		
Average Temperatures		
Period of Rotation		
Equatorial Diameter (size)		
Mass		
Density		
Composition		

Mercury

- no atmosphere – lacks protection against meteorite impacts – many craters from meteorite impacts

Venus

- experiences greenhouse effect because of a thick atmosphere of CO_2 gas - hottest temperatures (900^{o}F)
- "day is longer than year" (rotation takes longer than revolution)

Saturn

- entire planet is less dense than water (has a density of 0.7g/ml)

Other "space junk" that would be found in our Solar System:

the asteroid belt - rocks orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter

comets - masses of rocks, ice, and a tail of dust and gas that travel in highly elliptical orbits around the Sun

meteoroids – rocks freely floating through space

meteors - rocks burning up in Earth's atmosphere – "shooting stars"

meteorites - rocks that hit the Earth's surface