

# Goodies



It does not matter if there are eight, nine, or even 10 planets! We will see them all!

## A ninth planet?

**T**HE starfish twins love astronomy!

They love watching stars and reading books about outer space. They have some astronomy books. Some of them say that our Solar System (太陽系) has eight planets but others say it has nine. They are puzzled and wonder why different books say different things about the same solar system.

### Editor's Note

Hi! When I was young, I used to hate wearing glasses. I thought they made me look funny and some kids called me 'four-eyes'. But if I were to go to school today, I would not feel so bad because many students now wear glasses compared to kids in the past. But even though I would fit right in, it is still not a good thing because it means children in this city have poor eyesight. Always take care of your eyes by giving them a rest after studying. Turn to G03 to read more about shortsightedness. Elsewhere in *Goodies*, Rose gives advice on how to deal with bullies. She does not like them because they only pick on kids they think are weaker than them, but the truth is they are the weak ones. Find out more on G10.



Simon





G02

## Cover Feature

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Goodies



Siu fung

## What are our planets?

THE eight **planets**, from the nearest to the furthest from our Sun, are Mercury (水星), Venus (金星), Earth (地球), Mars (火星), Jupiter (木星), Saturn (土星), Uranus (天王星) and Neptune (海王星).

If you find it difficult to remember their order, there are many **mnemonics** to help us. An easy one is 'My Very Easy Method: Just SUN'. The capital letters refer to each planet.

## What was the ninth planet?

IT is called Pluto (冥王星), which is even farther away from our Sun than Neptune. It was discovered in 1930. But in 2006, Pluto was **excluded** from the planet list. The main reason was that there is an object even heavier than Pluto but it was not considered a planet. This forced the scientists to **redefine** 'planet' again, and Pluto did not fit the new definition.

## What do we know about 'Planet 9'?

IT is perhaps about 10 times the size of Earth. It is very far away from us – about 50 times the distance between Earth and the Sun. Since it is a planet, it moves around the Sun. Our Earth takes one year to move around the Sun, but Planet 9 takes 10,000 to 20,000 years!

## Then why are we not sure if there are nine planets or not?

BECAUSE in mid-January, two US scientists found much **evidence** to prove that there may still be a ninth planet. It is now called 'Planet 9'. They did not actually see it, but they found that several objects in the nearby region behaved strangely. The best explanation is that there is a big planet nearby. Now scientists all over the world are racing to see who will be the first to actually **observe** Planet 9!



There is a solar eclipse today. It is a total eclipse but people in Hong Kong can only see it partially. It starts at 8.05am and ends at 9.57am, with 8.58am being its peak. The next solar eclipse will be on 1 September. It will be an annular eclipse, which means that we can see a ring of light around a dark circle.



planet (n) 行星  
mnemonic (n) 幫助記憶的詞句

exclude (v) 不包括  
redefine (v) 重新定義

evidence (n) 證據  
observe (v) 觀測

