

# Goodies



## Among the stars

THERE are a lot of asteroids, big and small, floating around the solar system. One, called 2012TC4, even came 43,000 kilometres near the South Pole. Nasa is thinking about building a huge spaceship, named Hammer, to block or even destroy asteroids that would hit Earth.



Oh, I want to go up into space one day!

But you need good grades and a healthy life!

### Editor's Note

Hi! I have learnt many Cantonese expressions ever since I first came to Hong Kong. My colleague taught me 'sing leh' (升呢) which means raise to another level to become better at something. In Britain, you will hear many funny phrases that are not common in Hong Kong. You can say someone is 'bonkers' if you think they do crazy things, or perhaps say you are 'chuffed to bits' if you are really happy. Big Dee thinks he is really cool by using lots of slang spoken in the south of England. See what Bobby's reaction is on P10.



Simon



Alex

# Our home in the universe

**W**E do not know much about space, and what we do know has fascinated us. Try and learn a little about Earth and its place in the solar system.

## Earth

THIS is the third of the eight planets in the solar system. It is the only planet in the solar system to have enough liquid water so that life can exist on it. Nasa and other space agencies are worried about **asteroids**, or giant space rocks, hitting us because scientists believe it has happened before and is what made the dinosaurs go extinct.



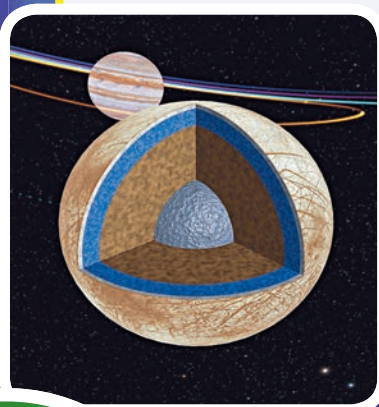
## The solar system

THE solar system is the phrase we use to describe the star system we live in. At the centre is the Sun, and then there are the eight planets. The first four planets – Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars – are rocky planets, but Jupiter and Saturn are gas giants. Then come Neptune and Uranus, both of which are ice planets. Between Mars and Jupiter is a ring of asteroids called the asteroid belt.



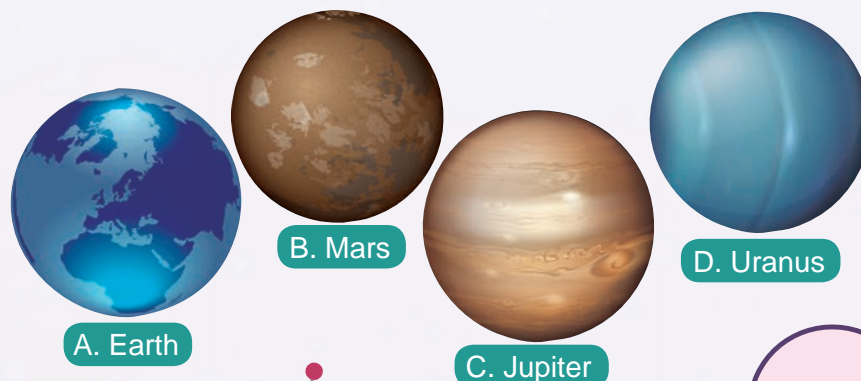
## Planets

PLANETS are **celestial bodies orbiting** around a star. It has to be round, not big enough to start giving out light on its own, and not have anything blocking its **elliptical** path around the star. The word 'planet' is old and comes from ancient Greek (古希臘文). Most planets we know, be they in the solar system or out, are billions of years old. This includes Earth.



## G FUN

Which of the following is not solid?



Want to know more? We can read books about the solar system and visit the Space Museum!



Answers on P12