

# FORM 3 GEOGRAPHY NOTE 11

## OUR EARTH AND OUR UNIVERSE

### THE SOLAR SYSTEM

**The Solar System** is made up of the Sun and all of the smaller object that move around it.

The largest members of the Solar System are the 8 major planets.

- Astronomy is the study of the Universe and everything it. It includes planets, stars, galaxies, comets and black holes.

#### *Facts about the Sun*

- It is a star.
  - It is a fiery ball of gases.
  - It has a diameter of
  - The sun is the center of our solar system.
  - It keeps the planets in orbit by its gravitational pull.
  - Earth depends on the sun.
  - The sun provides heat, light and energy needed for life.
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- Tongans were great astronomers. They used the heavenly bodies to guide them in their voyage. At night, they used the Milky Way or the Kaniva's movement to determine the direction and the time.
  - The Milky Way enabled Polynesians to travel to faraway places and to return safely.
  - The Milky Way links the people of Polynesia.
  - As the great navigators travelled in the night they saw falling stars (Fetu'u'esiafi)
  - They saw shooting stars (Fetu'uto)
  - They knew it was almost morning when they saw Venus (Fetu'u Pongipongi) in the Eastern horizon.

**ACTIVITY 1:** Use the notes provided and your own knowledge to answer the questions that follow.

1. In your own words define the word Solar System.
2. From the facts of the sun provided in points describe the sun.
3. Explain the navigators and astronomers of Tonga in the past. You can ask your parents or grandparents or older siblings on this matter.
4. Imagine you are an astronaut name different bodies or things you might see in space while you are there.