

Spherical Solar System





Overview

Why are planets spherical?

While gravity conspires to render the planets spherical, the speed of their rotations is simultaneously trying to flatten them. The faster a celestial body spins, the more disproportionate its equatorial bulge gets. "This is why there are no perfect spheres in our solar system . only oblate spheroids," Carpenter tells us.

Are all planets round or spherical?

Tidal Forces: Gravitational interactions with other celestial bodies, like moons or a parent star, cause elongation and tidal bulges. Overall, planets are round. But, none are perfect spheres. The Most Round Planets: Venus and Mercury are the most spherical planets in the solar system, with very minor flattening due to rotation.

Why is the Sun spherical?

The Sun, like planets, is also round due to gravity. However, being a fluid mass, its shape slightly distorts due to its magnetic field and solar wind. While it rotates pretty quickly, gravity overcomes the effects of centrifugal force, so the Sun is nearly spherical.

Which planet has a spherical orbit?

As they spin around axes, they get flatter on the poles and wider on the equator. The faster the planet spins, the more oblate it is. Venus and Mercury are the most spherical planets because they spin the slowest. What shape are the planets' orbits?

The planets have almost circular orbits, unlike comets that move in eccentric ellipses.



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