Birth of the Solar System

Our solar system has eight planets continually orbiting a star.

How did our solar system form?

Astronomers use computer simulations to show that our solar system probably formed from a swirling disk of dust, gas, and rocks. Forces such as gravity caused small particles to clump together, and these clumps continued to grow in size as they orbited the young Sun. Over hundreds of millions of years, the planets of the solar system grew to become the objects we now know as Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.