

New Planets

Astronomers are excited. A new solar system with seven planets has been found. There could even be water on some of the planets. That could mean that there is life!

Telescopes

5 Astronomers, scientists that study space, found the dwarf star Trappist-1 with a telescope. The telescope saw dips in the amount of light coming from the star. That could mean a planet was moving in front of the star, taking away part of the light. When stronger and bigger telescopes looked at Trappist-1, they saw seven planets. They were about the same size as Earth, and they were circling around the dwarf star.

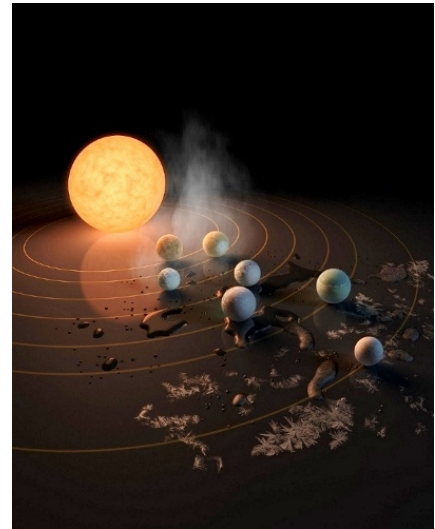
Facts

15 We know some things for sure. For example, Trappist-1 is 39 light-years away from us. It is smaller than our sun. The planets circle around the star much quicker than Earth does around the sun. The dwarf star is not the same colour as our sun, it is pinker.

Hopes

20 There are scientists who have been looking for alien life for years. They are happy too! If there is water and maybe life on these planets, then maybe there is also alien life. Maybe we can answer this question one day: "Is there anyone out there?"

Source: www.sciencenewsforstudents.org;
www.washingtonpost.com



Trappist-1 and the seven planets.



Image of what it would be like on one of the planets.