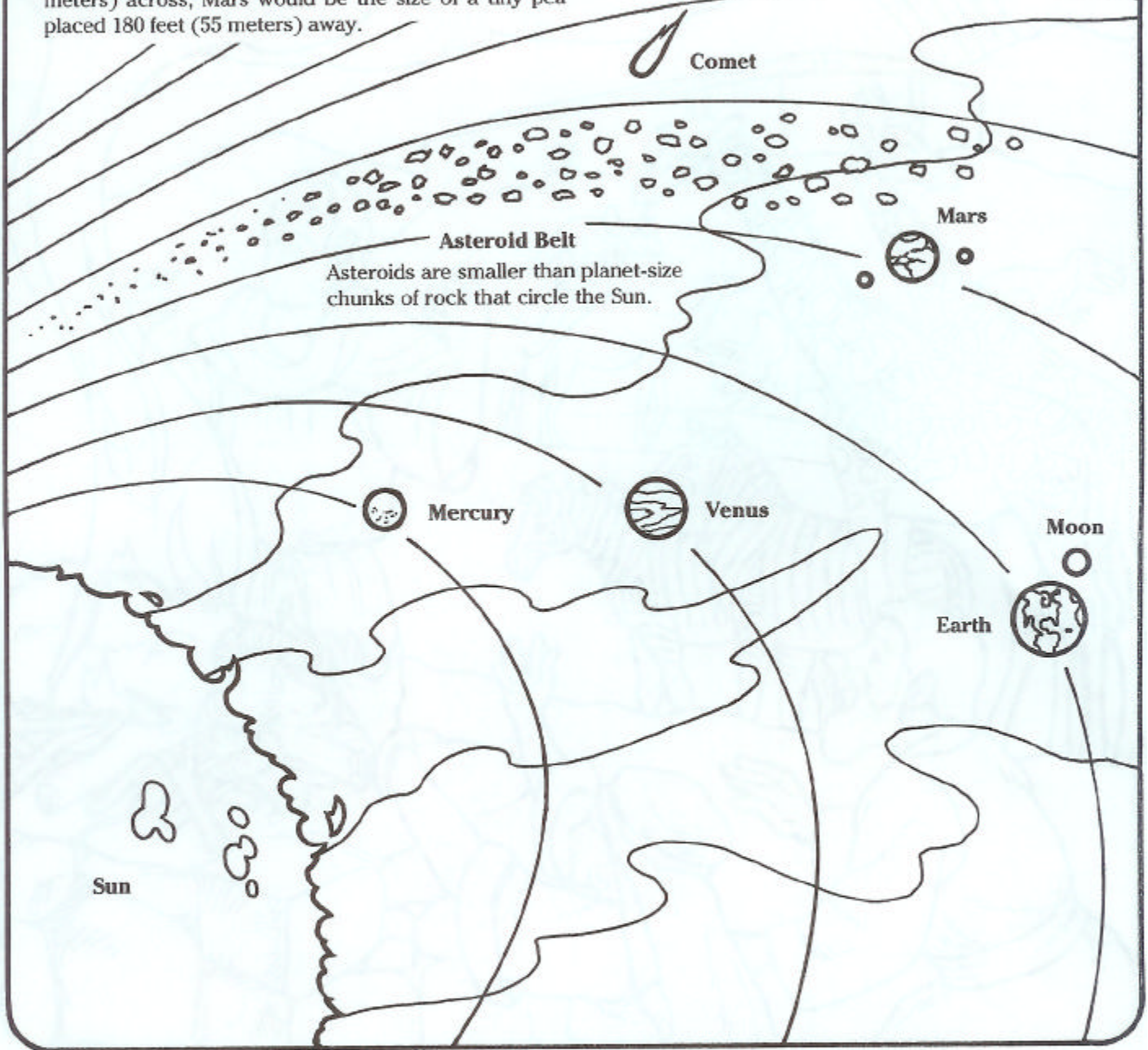


## THE SOLAR SYSTEM

This picture cannot begin to show the true enormous size of the Solar System. To give you a better idea—if the Sun were the size of a large beachball 20 inches (50 centimeters) across, Mars would be the size of a tiny pea placed 180 feet (55 meters) away.



**LIFE COULD NOT EXIST ON EARTH WITHOUT THE SUN. GOD PLACED THE SUN AT THE CENTER OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM WE LIVE IN.**

The word '*solar*' means "of the sun." Our Solar System contains one star, our Sun. Nine planets, including Earth, orbit (circle in a path) around the Sun; and dozens of moons, in turn, orbit these planets. God created a force of attraction between all these heavenly objects called *gravity*. Gravity pulls a planet toward the Sun. But *inertia*—a planet's tendency to keep going straight—pulls the planet away from the Sun. God balances these two forces to hold each planet (and moon) in its perfect orbit.