



Oldřich Růžička
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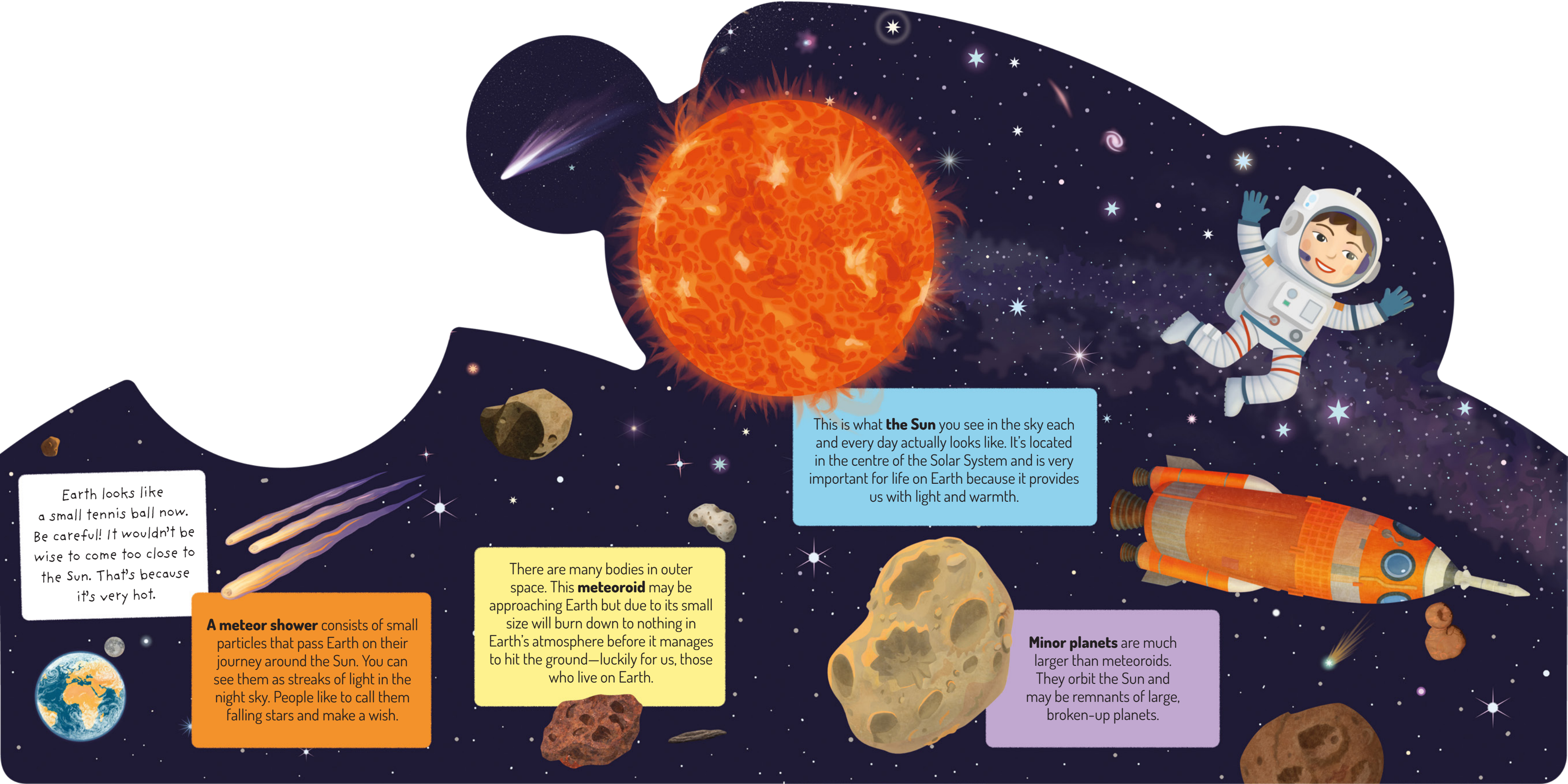
My first **SPACE DISCOVERIES**

My first



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**SPACE
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Earth looks like a small tennis ball now. Be careful! It wouldn't be wise to come too close to the Sun. That's because it's very hot.

A meteor shower consists of small particles that pass Earth on their journey around the Sun. You can see them as streaks of light in the night sky. People like to call them falling stars and make a wish.

There are many bodies in outer space. This **meteoroid** may be approaching Earth but due to its small size will burn down to nothing in Earth's atmosphere before it manages to hit the ground—luckily for us, those who live on Earth.

This is what **the Sun** you see in the sky each and every day actually looks like. It's located in the centre of the Solar System and is very important for life on Earth because it provides us with light and warmth.

Minor planets are much larger than meteoroids. They orbit the Sun and may be remnants of large, broken-up planets.



The Solar System consists of eight planets, all orbiting the Sun.



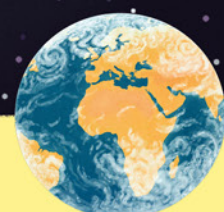
MERCURY

The smallest planet in the Solar System and one that's the closest to the Sun. Its surface is littered with craters made by cosmic bodies crashing into it.



VENUS

A very bright planet, you can see it in the sky a few hours after it gets dark or just before sunrise. It appears as a bright spot.



EARTH

The only planet known to have life. It's beautiful, exceptional, and deserves of protection.



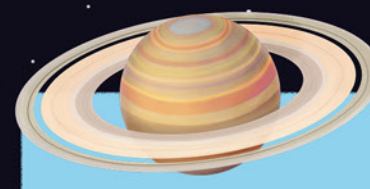
MARS

The second smallest planet in the Solar System. People have sent scientific probes to study its red surface. You can see it with the naked eye as a reddish spot in the sky.



JUPITER

The biggest planet in the Solar System, visible to the naked eye as a light spot. A huge storm ravages the planet throughout the year.



SATURN

The second largest planet in the Solar System, it's surrounded with rings of ice, stones, and cosmic dust.



URANUS

The third largest planet in the Solar System and the coldest one to boot. It mostly consists of ice.



NEPTUNE

The last and most remote planet in the Solar System, it's made up mostly of gasses and has a characteristic blue colour.

But there's no need to drop everything and go to outer space. You can simply watch stars and planets from down here on Earth.



No doubt, there's an **observatory** near the place you live. It's a building full of telescopes and machines for observing outer space.

Observatories are staffed with scientists that observe outer space. Some observatories include a **planetarium** with an artificial starry sky that helps people get a better idea of what space looks like.

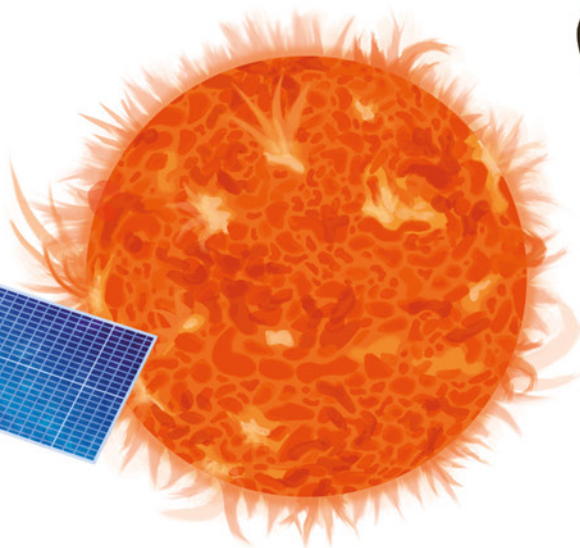
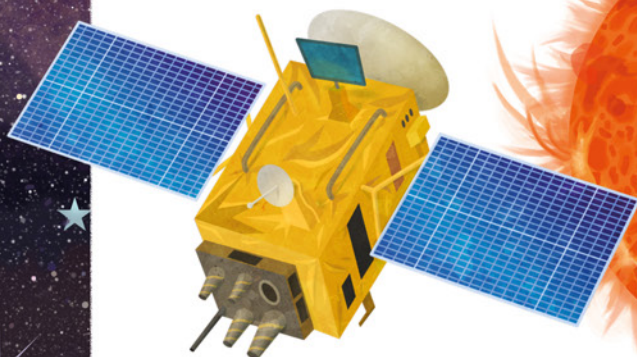
Observatories are usually built on hills, ideally off centres of large cities to offset light pollution.




* My first *

SPACE DISCOVERIES

Set out for your first journey to explore outer space. Discover the bodies orbiting Earth. Learn about the Solar System and its individual planets. Familiarise yourself with the cosmic bodies you can see in the night sky, with the naked eye or using an astronomical telescope. Learn what a meteoroid, meteoric shower, or comet is and what a minor planet looks like. Peek into the deep space that hides millions of other stars and galaxies. Your very first space journey is about to begin.



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