

Table 1 Comparing Planets and Stars

Feature	Planet	Star
location	in the solar system	far beyond the solar system
distance from Earth	fairly near	very far
real size	smaller than most stars	usually larger than planets
reason we see object	reflects light from the Sun	emits its own light
surface temperature	usually cool or very cold	very hot
what object is made of	usually rocks or gases	gases under high pressure and temperature
observable feature	does not appear to twinkle	appears to twinkle
long-term observable feature	very slowly wanders through constellations	appears to move through sky as part of a constellation