

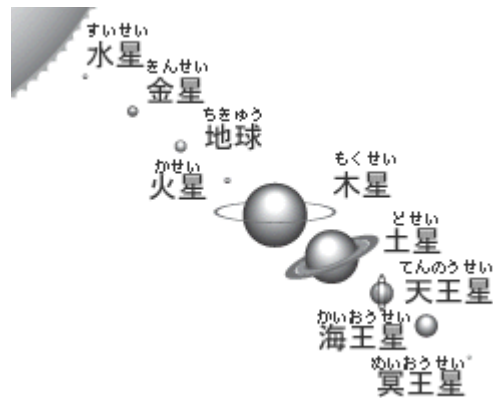
あま がわ
■ 天の川 In a galaxy far, far away.....

As the kanji shows, the Milky Way in Japanese is referred to as the 'River of Heaven'. 天の川

is made up of millions of 星, stars. Our solar system is made up of the sun, 太陽, and the

planets, 惑星. Below are the planets in order from the 太陽. Do you know which planets they

are?



たなばた れきし 七夕の歴史 The History of Tanabata

When the Chinese folk legend about the Weaver Star and the Cowherd Star was introduced to Japan, it merged with native legends about a celestial weaving maiden (たなばたつめ) who fashioned clothing for the gods to wear at おぼん, the festival of the souls of the dead, which was celebrated around that date. As it also coincided with native agricultural rites, this festival, called たなばた after the maiden, became one of the annual events (ねんちゅうぎょうじ) observed by the imperial court from around 750. たなばた became more broadly popular during the Edo period after it became a せつく, one of the seasonal festivals, and was celebrated much like it is today.

Created by Cathy Jonak