

Scientists report most Earth-like planet yet

Astronomers say they have spotted the first planet outside our solar system with the potential to support life. The new planet, *Gliese 581g*, lies 20 light years from Earth in the middle of its star's "habitable zone", a region of space where conditions are just right for life to develop

GLIESE 581 SYSTEM

Gliese 581: Red dwarf star 50 times cooler than our sun

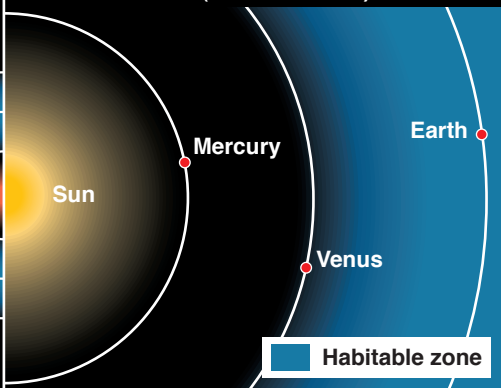
Gliese 581g
New planet

Gliese 581c

Gliese 581d

Some planets omitted for clarity.
Planets and stars not to scale

SOLAR SYSTEM (on same scale)



GLIESE 581g FACTFILE

Diameter 1.2 to 1.4 times that of Earth

Mass 3 to 4 times Earth

Surface temperature
Ranges from 70°C (160°F) on side facing star to -40°C (-40°F) on dark side

Length of year 37 days

Gravity: Similar or slightly higher than Earth

Composition: Rocky, with atmosphere and possibly liquid water on surface

Artist's concept shows inner four planets of Gliese 581 system and their host star. Large planet in foreground is Gliese 581g

