**Introductory Paragraph**

Into the Beyond!

For millennia, humans have been fascinated by the planets three cate.

By way of definition, a planet is an astronomical object orbiting a star or stellar remnant that is massive enough to be rounded by its own gravity.

 It is not massive enough to cause thermonuclear fusion, and it has cleared its neighboring region of planetesimals

Planetesimals are small, rocky fragments that resemble the larger terrestrial planets.

Historically, early astronomers in the 17th and 18th centuries began to discover the planets.

Their discoveries paved the way for a generation of young star gazers who would become leaders in the field of astronomy.

Today, astronomers have identified and fully classified three types of planets, including inner or terrestrial planets, outer planets (or gas giants), and dwarf planets.

**Detail Paragraph**

The first major type of planet is the terrestrial planet.

Interestingly, the term “terrestrial planet” was derived from the Latin words for Earth (“terra” and “tellus”) because these planets are “earth-like” in their structure, composition, and size.

They have a hard surface comprised of canyons, craters, mountains, and volcanoes.

Indeed, the Earth is one of the terrestrial planets.

Known as the “Blue Marble” the Earth is the densest planet in the solar system and is the only celestial body know to accomadoate life.

Another terrestrial planet, the planet closest to the sun, is Mercury.

Its rapid orbital time led it to be named after the Ronan deity Mercury, the fast-flying messenger of the Gods.

The next closest planet to the sun is Venus.

**Detail Paragraph (cont.)**

Venus is known as the Earth’s “sister planet” due to its similar composition.

Venus is the hottest planet is the solar system and has an atmospheric pressure ninety two times that of Earth’s.

The last terrestrial planet is Mars, often described as the “red planet.”

Due to the presence of iron oxide and traces of water, Mars has been under intense scrutiny by scientists as to whether or not it contains life-supporting soil.

**Concluding Paragraph**

As can be seen, the scientific community has divided the planets in our solar system into three categories.

Firstly, the inner planets closest to the sun are characterized by Earth-like structures, although they might be different from the Earth with regard to atmosphere and ability to support life.

In contrast, the outer planets are further divided into “Gas Giants” and “Ice Giants.”

These outer planets generally lack large, substantive cores.

Lastly, dwarf planets occupy their own niche in the solar system.

These tiny planets are not true planets because they have not cleared their orbits of other objects.

In summation, all these planet types and their varied characteristics call out to humans and entice them to invent ways to visit.