

Name: _____

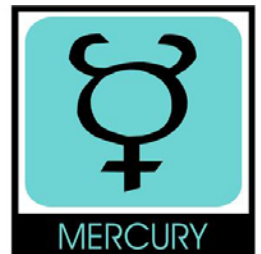
Date: _____

Facts about Mercury



- In Roman mythology Mercury is the god of commerce, travel and thievery, the Roman counterpart of the Greek god Hermes, the messenger of the Gods. The planet received this name because it moves so quickly across the sky.

- Mercury is a small planet which orbits closer to the sun than any other planet in our solar system.
- Mercury has no moons.
- Mercury's surface is very hot, it features a barren, crater covered surface which looks similar to Earth's moon.
- Mercury is so close to the Sun, the daytime temperature is scorching reaching over 400 degrees Celsius.
- At night however, without an atmosphere to hold heat in, the temperatures plummet, dropping to -180 degrees Celsius.
- Mercury has a very low surface gravity.
- Mercury has no atmosphere which means there is no wind or weather to speak of.
- Mercury has no water or air on the surface.



Mercury's symbol

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read each question.

Then, write your answer.

1. How many moons does Mercury have?

2. Why was the planet Mercury named after the Roman god?

3. Mercury's surface looks similar to what moon?

4. What is Mercury's temperature at night?

5. Why is there no weather or wind in Mercury?

6. What is Mercury's temperature during daytime?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Facts about Venus



- Venus is named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty.
- Venus is the second planet from the sun.
- Is the brightest object in the sky besides our Sun and the Moon.

- Has no moons.
- It is also known as the morning star because at sunrise it appears in the east. It is also known as evening star as it appears at sunset when it is in the west. It cannot be seen in the middle of the night.
- Venus and Earth are close together in space and similar in size, which is the reason Venus is called Earth's sister planet.
- Venus has more volcanoes than any other planet.
- It is the hottest planet in the solar system, even hotter than Mercury, which is closer to the Sun.
- The temperature on the surface of Venus is about 460° Celsius.
- The atmosphere on Venus is composed of carbon dioxide. The surface is heated by radiation from the sun, but the heat cannot escape through the clouds and layer of carbon dioxide. (This is a "greenhouse effect").



Venus' symbol

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read each question.

Then, write your answer.

1. How many moons does Venus have?

2. Venus was named after the Roman goddess of ____?

Circle your answer.

a. grace and peace

b. love and beauty

b. Hope and eternity

3. Venus is the _____ planet from the sun.

4. What is the temperature of Venus surface?

5. Why is Venus called Earth's sister planet?

6. What is the atmosphere of Venus composed of?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Facts about Earth



- All of the planets, except for Earth, were named after Greek and Roman gods and goddesses. The name Earth is an Old English and German name which simply means soil.
- Earth is the third planet from the sun.

- Has one moon.
- It is the only planet that has liquid water on its surface.
- It is the only planet in the solar system that has life.
- The Earth is fragile. Its surface is split into plates (tectonic plates) which float on a rocky mantle – the layer between the surface of the earth, its crust, and its hot liquid core. The inside of the Earth is active and earthquakes, volcanoes and mountain building takes place along the boundaries of the tectonic plates.
- The Earth is larger than Mercury, Venus and Mars, the planets closest to it.
- The Earth differs from all the other planets because it has such a wide diversity of life and intelligent beings. This has only been possible because of the Earth's atmosphere which has protected the Earth and allowed life to flourish.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Read each question.

Then, write your answer.

1. What does the name Earth mean?

2. Earth is the _____ planet from the sun.

Circle your answer.

a. second

b. first

b. third

3. Earth's surface is split into plates. What are these plates called?

4. Earth is larger than what other three planets?

5. List two facts of how Earth is different from other planets.

6. How many moons does Earth have?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Facts about Mars



- Mars was named after the Roman god of war, it is also described as the “Red Planet” because it is covered with rust-like dust.
- Mars is the fourth planet from the sun.
- It is the second smallest planet in the Solar System.
- Has two moons.
- Mars looks a lot like our home, though instead of blue oceans and green land, Mars is home to an ever present red tint. This is due to a mineral called iron oxide that is very common on the planet’s surface.
- Mars has many massive volcanoes and is home to Olympus Mons, the largest volcano in our solar system, it stands 21km high and is 600km across the base.
- Mars has seasons like Earth too. These seasons are much longer than Earth seasons because Mars is so much farther from the sun.
- Mars experiences violent dust storms which continually change its surface.
- Mars has a very thin atmosphere made mostly of carbon dioxide. It is not thick enough to trap the sun's heat like Venus, so the planet is very cold. Temperatures range from -120 Degrees Celsius on winter nights to 25 Degrees Celsius in the summer.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Read each question.

Then, write your answer.

1. Because Mars has rust- like dust it is also known as?

2. What is Mars atmosphere mostly made up of?

3. Name the mineral that causes Mars to have an ever present red tint.

4. What is the name of the Solar System largest volcano?

5. Why do seasons last longer on Mars?

6. Mars is the _____ smallest planet in the Solar System.

Circle your answer.

a. second

b. first

b. fourth

Name: _____

Date: _____

Facts about Jupiter



- It is called after the ancient Roman sky-god, Jupiter, known to the Greeks as Zeus.
- Jupiter is the fifth planet from the sun.
- Jupiter is the largest planet in our Solar system. It is so big that more than 1300 Earths could fit inside it.

- Has 63 moons! The first 4 largest moons of Jupiter are called Galilean moons but 46 of them are much smaller ranging.
- Jupiter is the stormiest planet in the Solar System. There is a permanent, but ever-changing whirlpool of storms, known as Jupiter's Great Red Spot which can be seen using a telescope.
- The Red Spot was first seen by Robert Hooke in 1664.
- Jupiter is the first of the "gas giants", Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
- Jupiter is made of hydrogen, helium, methane and ammonia. The cloudy sphere has bright belts on it which change their shape.
- If you were to descend into Jupiter, the thin, cold atmosphere becomes thicker and hotter, gradually turning into a thick, dark fog. In the blackness about 1000km down the pressure squeezes the atmosphere so hard that it becomes like liquid.



Jupiter's symbol

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read each statement.

Then, circle your answer.

1. Jupiter was named after the ancient roman sky-god.

True

False

2. Jupiter is the smallest planet in our Solar System.

True

False

3. Jupiter Red Spot can be seen without a telescope.

True

False

4. The Red Spot was first seen by Robert Hookens.

True

False

5. Jupiter is the stormiest planet in the Solar System .

True

False

6. The four largest moons of Jupiter are called Galilean moons.

True

False

7. Jupiter is the sixth planet from the sun.

True

False

Name: _____

Date: _____

Facts about Saturn



- Saturn was named after the ancient Roman god of agriculture.
- Is the sixth planet from the sun.
- Saturn is the second largest planet in our Solar System, after the giant Jupiter.
- Has 62 moons!
- Saturn is the last planet that can be seen without using a telescope or binoculars and the planet was known in the ancient world before telescopes were invented. The rings, however, can only be seen using a telescope.
- The rings were first seen by Galileo in 1610 through a telescope.
- The rings are made up of millions of ice crystals, some as big as houses and others as small as specks of dust.
- The four largest outer planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, are known as the “gas giants” since it is thought they are entirely made up of dense layers of gas. Saturn is a great ball of hydrogen and helium.
- Saturn is very light as it is made up of more hydrogen than helium so it is less dense.
- Saturn is not a peaceful planet. Storm winds race around the atmosphere at 800kmp/h.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Read each statement.
Then, mark your answer.

- | | True | False |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Saturn is called after the ancient Roman god of agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Saturn rings are made up of millions of water drops. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Saturn was known before telescopes were invented. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are known as the "gas giants". | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Saturn is the second smallest planet in the Solar System. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Saturn has 62 moons. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Saturn's rings can only be seen with a telescope. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Name: _____

Date: _____

Facts about Uranus



- Uranus was named after the Greek god of the sky.
- Is the seventh planet from the sun.
- Uranus was the first planet discovered by telescope.

- Has 27 moons.
- Uranus was first seen by William Herschel in 1781 during a survey of the sky using a telescope.
- Rolls like a barrel rather than spinning like Earth and the other planets in our Solar System.
- Uranus is the coldest planet in our Solar System.
- Uranus is one of the “gas giants”, the four outer planets which are entirely composed of gas, Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune.
- Uranus is the smallest of the four “giants”, but is still several times larger than the Earth.
- Uranus’s atmosphere is mostly hydrogen but it also contains large amounts of a gas called methane. Methane absorbs red light and scatters blue light so a blue-green methane haze hides the interior of the planet from view.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Read each question.

Then, write your answer.

1. Why is Uranus considered a “gas giant” ?

2. What is Uranus atmosphere mostly made up of?

3. What is the name of the gas that makes Uranus seem blue-green?

4. Who first saw Uranus through a telescope?

5. Uranus is the _____ planet from the sun.

Circle your answer.

a. sixth

b. seventh

b. eighth

6. Uranus was named after the Greek god of the _____.

a. water

b. sky

b. soil

Name: _____

Date: _____

Facts about Neptune



- Neptune is named after the Roman god of the sea.
- Is the eighth planet in the Solar System.
- Is the farthest planet from the Sun in the Solar System.

- Has 13 moons.
- Neptune is one of the four “gas giants”. Like Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus, it is composed only of gas. Neptune is a great ball of hydrogen and helium.
- In the same year that Neptune was first seen, 1846, its first moon was also spotted and named Triton. Triton is a most unusual moon since it orbits Neptune in the opposite direction of Neptune's own rotation on its axis. All the other major satellites (moons) in the Solar System follow their planets round as they turn.
- Neptune is a large, water planet with a blue hydrogen-methane atmosphere and faint rings.
- Neptune suffers the most violent weather in our Solar System.
- Storms have been spotted swirling around its surface and freezing winds that blow about ten times faster than hurricanes on Earth making it the windiest planet in the Solar System.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Read each statement.

Then, mark your answer.

- | | True | False |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Neptune is the windiest planet in our Solar System. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Neptune was named after the Roman god of the sea. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Triton is the most unusual moon. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Neptune is known as one of the "great giants". | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Neptune's atmosphere is made up of hydrogen-methane. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Neptune is the ninth planet in the Solar System. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Neptune suffers the least violent weather in the Solar System. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Name: _____

Date: _____

Our Solar System contains a total of 8 planets.

Here are some facts of the 8 planets in our Solar System:

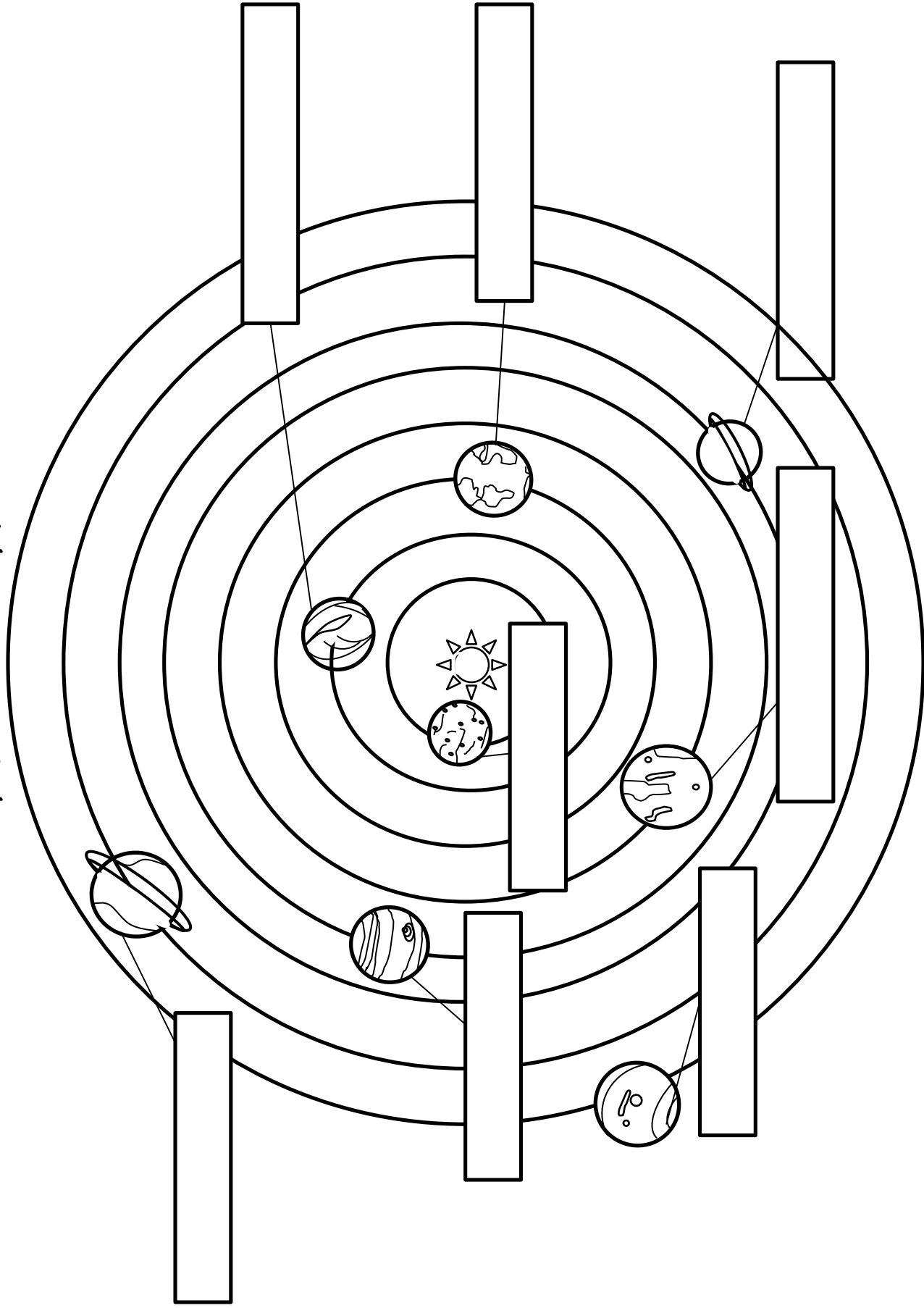
Planet	Fact
Mercury	The closest planet to the sun.
Venus	Has more volcanoes than any other planet.
Earth	Is the only planet humans have walked on.
Mars	Has the largest volcano in our Solar System.
Jupiter	Is the largest planet.
Saturn	Is surrounded by rings.
Uranus	Is the coldest planet in our Solar System.
Neptune	Has the most violent weather.

1. What planet is the coldest? _____.
2. The largest planet is _____.
3. _____ has more volcanoes than any other planet.
4. Which planet is the closest to the sun?
_____.
5. The only planet where humans have walked on is _____.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Name those Planets!



Name: _____

Date: _____



Earth



Mercury



Neptune



Venus



Saturn



Uranus



Jupiter



Mars

Cut and paste the planets name in order.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.