

Solar System Questions, Worksheet One

1. How many planets are in the solar system?
2. What is the name of the closest planet to the Sun?
3. What is the name of the furthest planet from the Sun?
4. If the Sun is not a planet, what is the Sun?
5. How many giant planets go around the Sun?
6. What planet is famous for a Great Red Spot?
7. What planet has bright rings that go around it?
8. How many moons does Neptune have?
9. How many moons does Mars have?
10. What does a comet have coming out of it?
11. What is the smallest planet that goes around the Sun?

Solar System Questions, Worksheet Two

1. What is a Astronomical Unit?
2. How many AU's is the Sun away from Pluto?
3. What is the region between Mars and Jupiter called?
4. How many planets are solid?
5. Why are some planets hot and some cold?
6. What is the name of a famous comet?
7. What is the hottest planet?
8. What planet has the greatest number of moons?
9. What are the names of Jupiter's largest moons?
10. If you only have a birthday once every 84 Earth years, where were you born?

Solar System Questions, Worksheet Three

1. Which planet has a rotational period greater than its orbital period?
2. What is the largest moon in the solar system?
3. What planet has moons named after Shakespearean characters?
4. How many kilometers are in an AU.
5. Why is the surface temperature of Venus greater than that on Mercury?
6. Why do the giant gas planets “bulge” around their middle?
7. How many times could the diameter of Jupiter go across that of the Sun?
8. What is the possible place of origin of the Martian moons?
9. Why do the planets change brightness as seen from Earth?
10. Why is it difficult trying to find planets beyond Pluto?

Solar System Questions, Sheet Two

1. An astronomical unit is the mean distance from the Sun to the Earth, 150,000,000 km.
2. 39.4 AU's.
3. Asteroid zone.
4. Five.
5. The outer surface temperatures of the planets are related to their distances from the Sun.
6. Halley's Comet.
7. Venus has the hottest surface temperature, 480 C.
8. Saturn (as of the beginning of 1999).
9. Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.
10. Uranus.

Solar System Questions, Sheet Three

1. Venus. Rotational period = 243.1 days, orbital period = 225 days.
2. Ganymede, 5,268 km in diameter.
3. Uranus.
4. 150,000,000 km.
5. Although Mercury is close to the Sun, Venus suffers from the extremes of the 'Green House' effect which traps heat down to its surface making it hotter.
6. The gas planets bulge because of high rotational speeds that push out their equatorial regions.
7. 9.72 times.
8. The asteroid zone.
9. Planets change brightness depending upon their ever changing distance from the Earth and the Sun. Additionally, Mercury and Venus show phases similar to the Moon.
10. Because they are likely to be small and their distances so great that reflected light from them will be very faint.