

Name: _____
SOLAR SYSTEM WEBSEARCH

Date: _____
Period: _____

A. <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/index.cfm>

1. Click on "Planets" then on the next page click on "Our Solar System." Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars are known as _____ planets because they have _____ surfaces. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are known as _____.
2. What is the definition of a planet (3 parts)?
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) _____
3. Click on "Known Dwarf Planets." Read "What about Pluto?" and then circle above which part of the definition (a, b, or c) does not allow Pluto to be considered a "planet" in our solar system.
4. Using the chart, how many moons does each planet have? Mercury _____, Venus _____, Earth _____, Mars _____, Jupiter _____, Saturn _____, Uranus _____, Neptune _____
5. Click on each planet name in the chart or in the picture to answer the following questions:
 - A. Mercury is the _____ planet to the sun. Mercury is the _____ and _____ planet in the solar system. It also has the _____ daily variations in surface temperature.
 - B. Venus is Earth's _____ because they are similar in _____, _____, _____, and _____ from the sun. Venus is covered by thick, rapidly spinning _____ that trap surface heat creating a _____ effect. Venus reflects so much sunlight, it is the _____ planet in the night sky.
 - C. Earth is the only planet with _____ on it. Earth's atmosphere has _____ in it, which allows life here. Earth is actually the _____ largest planet in the solar system.
 - D. Mars is known as the "_____ Planet." It also has _____ caps at each pole.
 - E. Jupiter is the _____ planet in the solar system. It has four planet-sized moons called _____, _____, _____, and _____. These four moons are known as the _____ satellites. _____ is the most volcanically active body in our solar system and _____ is the largest planetary moon.
 - F. Saturn is known for its _____. Saturn's largest moon is called _____.

G. Uranus gets its blue-green color from _____ gas.

H. Neptune is actually the _____ planet (including dwarf planets) from the Sun for a 20-year period out of every 248 Earth years.

I. Pluto is now considered a _____ planet.

6. Click on “Asteroids.” Asteroids are _____ fragments left over from the formation of the solar system about 4.6 billion years ago. They are sometimes referred to by scientists as _____ and most can be found orbiting the Sun in a belt between _____ and _____. This region in our solar system, called the _____ or Main Belt. The extinction of the _____ 65 million years ago has been linked to a devastating impact near the _____ in Mexico.
7. Click on “Meteoroids.” They are nicknamed “_____”. The bright trails as they are coming through the Earth’s atmosphere are called _____, and these chunks as they are hurtling through space are called _____. Large pieces that do not vaporize completely and reach the surface of the Earth are termed _____. One of the most famous craters in the U.S. is found in the state of _____.
8. Click on “Comets.” Comets are found in the _____ near Neptune and the _____.

B. http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/solar_system_level1/solar_system.html
What is the solar system? _____

C. http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/solar_system_level2/planets.html

1. Click on each planet to answer the following questions:

A. Mercury’s atmosphere is very _____.

B. Venus is referred to as the _____ because it is the brightest planet that can be viewed from Earth. Its thick cloud cover is an excellent reflector of the _____ light. It rotates in a clockwise direction, which is referred to as a _____ rotation. Prograde rotation is opposite of this, so these planets rotate in a _____ direction.

C. Earth is the only inner planet in our solar system that has _____ water on its surface. _____% of the surface is covered by oceans.

D. Mars has 2 moons named _____ and _____. Mars has the largest volcano in the world called _____.

E. Jupiter is so large that _____ of the other planets in the solar system could fit inside of it. A hurricane-like storm can be seen on Jupiter’s surface nicknamed the _____.

F. Saturn has the lowest _____ of any planet in our solar system. Its density is so low that it would float if it was placed in _____. It also has an extensive _____ system made up of water, ice, and dust.

G. Uranus is unique in our solar system because it is tilted _____ degrees, which means it rotates on its _____.

H. The planet _____ allowed scientists to find Neptune. Neptune has _____ and _____ ovals on the surface, which astronomers believe are hurricane-like storms. It is called the The Great Dark Spot.

D. <http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/space/solar-system>

1. Click on each planet to complete the chart.

Planet	Distance from the Sun (miles)	Distance from the Sun (km)	Revolution Period (length of year)	Rotation Period (length of day)	Temperature (Fahrenheit and Celsius)	Diameter (miles and km)	Your Weight on Each Planet _____ lbs
Mercury							
Venus							
Earth							
Mars							
Jupiter							
Saturn							
Uranus							
Neptune							

2. Answer the following questions on each planet: (You will also need to click on the buttons underneath the pictures: "Intro, Stats, Size Comparison, Moons, etc.")

A. The sun is a _____. It contains about _____% of all the stuff in our solar system. A _____ is a dark spot found on the surface of the sun. A _____ is a sudden, violent explosion from the sun's surface. A _____ is a bright blast from the sun's surface that often forms into a loop.

**B. Color each planet according to what you see (at the bottom of this page)
Color according to the key below:**

1st Planet	2nd Planet	3rd Planet	4th Planet
5th Planet	6th Planet	7th Planet	8th Planet

E. <http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/index.html>

1. Click on “View this Video” underneath “Phoenix Mars Lander: Entry Descent and Landing”

F. <http://www.nasa.gov/home/index.html> -PLEASE EXPLORE THIS SITE! AWESOME!

Other websites to explore:

1. <http://www.solarviews.com/eng/homepage.htm>
2. <http://pds.jpl.nasa.gov/planets/>
3. <http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/resources/explorations/trading/>
4. http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/our_solar_system/solar_system.html&edu=elem

Game Websites:

5. <http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/games/games.html>
6. http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/solar_system_level1/activity/planet_tac_toe.html
7. <http://nasascience.nasa.gov/kids/kids-solar-system>
8. http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/games/levelfive/KC_Solar_System.html
9. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/space/playspace/games.shtml>

