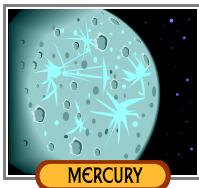


The Eight Planets of our Solar System



Name: Mercury

Distance to sun: about 58 million km

Moons: none

Diameter: 4,879 km at the equator

- **Mercury** is the planet in our solar system that is closest to our sun. Named after the Roman god Mercury who was the messenger to the gods, it is the smallest planet, and is very difficult to see because it is so close to the sun.



Name: Venus

Distance to sun: about 108 million km

Moons: none

Diameter: 12,100 km at the equator

- **Venus** is sometimes called our "sister planet" because it is nearly the same size as Earth, and it is closest to us. Second from the sun, it is named after the Roman goddess of love. It often appears very bright in the early morning sky.



Name: Earth

Distance to sun: about 150 million km

Moons: one

Diameter: 12,756 km at the equator

- **Earth** is the only planet that we know of, so far, that has life. It also has the solar system's largest moon. Three quarters of the planet is covered by oceans. Over 7 billion people live on Earth in about 200 countries.



Name: Mars

Distance to sun: about 228 million km

Moons: two

Diameter: 6,792 km at the equator

- **Mars** is smaller than both Venus and Earth, but has the solar system's largest volcano. Named after the Roman god of war (because of its blood-red color), many scientists believe that humans will travel to Mars this century.



Name: Jupiter

Distance to sun: about 778 million km

Moons: 60 - 70

Diameter: 142,984 km at the equator

- **Jupiter** is the largest planet in our solar system, and the third brightest object in the night sky. Named after the king of the Roman gods in mythology, Jupiter (along with Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune) is known as a "gas giant".



Name: Saturn

Distance to sun: about 1.4 billion km

Moons: 60 - 70

Diameter: 120,536 km at the equator

- **Saturn**, the sixth planet from the sun, and the second largest planet, is special because of rings (some other planets have them, but Saturn's are largest). It is named after the Roman god of agriculture (as is 'Saturday').



Name: Uranus

Distance to sun: about 2.88 billion km

Moons: 27 (maybe more)

Diameter: 51,118 km at the equator

- **Uranus** was only 'recently' discovered by Englishman William Herschel in 1781. The planet was first named after King George III of England, but the name was later changed to 'Uranus' (after the Greek god of the sky).



Name: Neptune

Distance to sun: about 4.5 billion km

Moons: 13 (maybe more)

Diameter: 49,528 km at the equator

- **Neptune** is the furthest planet from the sun (although small 'dwarf planets' such as Pluto are even more distant). Discovered by French and English astronomers in 1846, it is named after the Greek god of the sea.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Reading: Space

'The Eight Planets of our Solar System'



● **VOCABULARY: Match the words with their meanings.**

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| 1. solar system | <u>B</u> | A. how far away something is from another thing |
| 2. distance | _____ | B. the sun and all its planets |
| 3. diameter | _____ | C. 1,000,000,000 |
| 4. billion | _____ | D. how far from one side to the other |

● **COMPREHENSION #1: Write 'T' (True) or 'F' (False) next to each statement.**

1. F Earth is our solar system's largest planet.
2. _____ Uranus is larger than Neptune.
3. _____ Jupiter is the third planet from the sun.
4. _____ Mercury has two moons.
5. _____ Saturn is the only planet that has rings.
6. _____ Earth is mostly covered by water.
7. _____ Neptune was discovered by French and German astronomers in 1846.

● **COMPREHENSION #2: Answer the questions below.**

1. How many planets don't have a moon? _____
2. Which day of the week is named after a planet? _____
3. Which planet is not named after a Roman or Greek god? _____
4. What is an example of a 'dwarf planet'? _____
5. Which planet has the largest moon? _____
6. Which planet is the smallest? _____
7. Which planet was first named after a person? _____

● **DISCUSS: Now ask your classmates these questions ...**

Imagine you discovered a new planet. What name would you give it? Why?

READING

SPACE: 'The Eight Planets'

Aim Reading; Vocabulary building

Level Advanced

Time Approximately 20 – 25 minutes

ANSWER KEY

My Notes

● VOCABULARY

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. B | 3. D |
| 2. A | 4. C |

● COMPREHENSION #1

- | | | |
|------|------|------|
| 1. F | 4. F | 6. T |
| 2. T | 5. F | 7. F |
| 3. F | | |

● COMPREHENSION #2

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|
| 1. two | 4. Pluto | 6. Mercury |
| 2. Saturn | 5. Earth | 7. Uranus |
| 3. Earth | | |