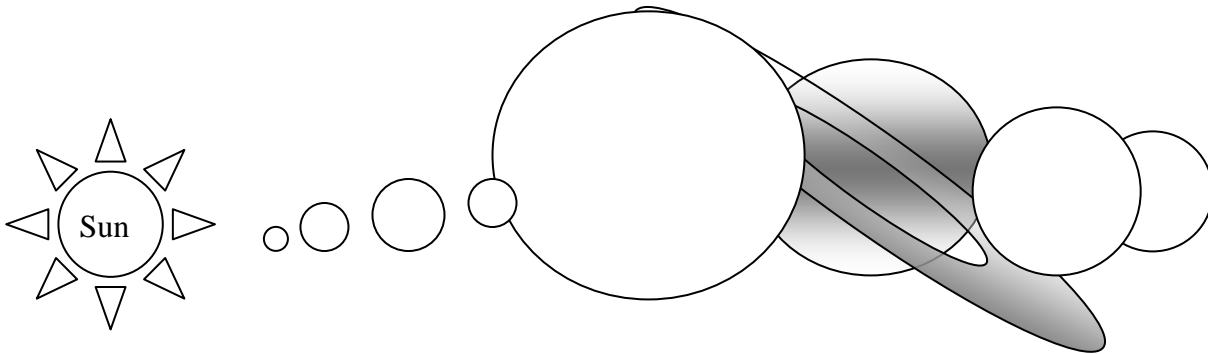


Planets

WORKSHEET A

Exercise 1

Quickly read the following and label the picture of the eight planets.



Earth is the third planet from the Sun and the fifth largest in the solar system. It's the only planet whose name is not taken from Greek or Roman mythology.

Neptune is named after the Roman god of the sea because of its blue colour. It is the fourth largest planet and is the eighth planet from the Sun.

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and nearly the smallest. It was named after the Roman god of commerce and travel, whose Greek counterpart was Hermes, the winged messenger.

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and the seventh largest planet. It's named after the Roman god of war and is sometimes called 'The Red Planet'.

Venus is named after the goddess of love and beauty and is the second closest planet to the Sun.

Jupiter's name is taken from the king of the Roman gods and it's the fifth planet from the Sun.

At 1,429 million kilometres from the Sun, Saturn is the sixth closest and the second largest planet. It's named after the Roman god of agriculture.

Uranus is the third largest planet and seventh from the Sun. It was named after the Roman god who was Saturn's father.

Planets

WORKSHEET B

Exercise 2

Write the name of the planet each paragraph describes.

- (1) _____ is the largest planet: 318 times the size of Earth and twice the size of all the other planets put together. Of its 39 satellites, the most famous are the four large moons Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto, which were discovered by Galileo in 1610. It is famous for its Great Red Spot, which is about the size of two Earths.
- (2) The average temperature on _____ is -55°C . There are some very high mountains and volcanoes such as Olympus Mons, which (at 24 kilometres high) is the highest mountain in the solar system. There are red dust storms that can last for months on this planet. It has two satellites, Phobos and Deimos.
- (3) _____ is the least dense of all the planets and it's made up of 75% hydrogen and 25% helium. As with all the gas planets, it radiates more energy than it receives from the Sun. It is most famous for its rings and was until recently believed to be the only planet which had rings.
- (4) The largest moon of _____ is called Triton, another god of the sea. Like Jupiter and Saturn, this planet radiates nearly twice as much energy as it receives from the Sun. It orbits the Sun every 165 years.
- (5) _____ is the densest planet in the solar system, and 71% of its surface is covered in water. Its atmosphere is made up of about 77% nitrogen and 21% oxygen and it orbits the Sun every 365 days.
- (6) _____ has no known satellites and there are large and frequent temperature changes, although there is evidence of water. Even though it's closer to the Sun than Venus, Venus is still slightly hotter. The only planet denser than this one is Earth.
- (7) _____ is the brightest object in the sky apart from the Sun and the Moon. It appears to be very similar to Earth. However, the surface pressure is 90 atmospheres, which is the equivalent of the pressure on a diver a kilometre deep in an ocean on Earth. Despite being slightly further from the Sun than Mercury, the temperature on this planet is hotter. It has no known satellites.
- (8) _____ was discovered in 1781 and was originally named after its discoverer, Sir William Herschel, but was later changed to that of a Roman god. It has more than twenty moons. The two largest, Titania and Oberon, are named after characters in the writings of William Shakespeare. It is slightly larger in diameter than neighbouring Neptune.