

The Planets of Our Solar System

READING COMPREHENSION



The Solar System is like a big family of objects that orbit the Sun.

The Sun is at the center, and all the planets travel around it in paths called orbits. There are eight planets, and each one is special.

The planets are in this order from the Sun: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

The first four planets, Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars, are called the inner planets. They are also known as rocky planets because they are made mostly of rock. The inner planets are small and are the closest to the Sun.

The last four planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, are called the outer planets. They are also known as gas giants (Jupiter and Saturn) and ice giants (Uranus and Neptune). The outer planets are very big, much larger than the inner planets. They are the farthest from the Sun and usually have many moons. The outer planets also have rings, although Saturn's rings are the easiest to see.

Planets can be different in size, temperature, and how long they take to orbit the Sun. For example, Mercury moves around the Sun very quickly, so its year is short. Neptune is far away, so it takes a very long time to complete one orbit.

Our planet, Earth, is the only one known to have life. It has air, liquid water, and the right temperature for living things.

The Solar System also includes moons, asteroids, and dwarf planets like Pluto. All these objects are part of the Sun's family.

Read the text about the planets and decide whether the sentences are true or false.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. The Sun is at the center of the Solar System. | True | False |
| 2. There are nine planets in the Solar System. | True | False |
| 3. Inner planets are small, rocky, and close to the Sun. | True | False |
| 4. Outer planets are much bigger and usually have many moons. | True | False |
| 5. Jupiter and Saturn are ice giants. | True | False |
| 6. Earth is the only planet known to have life. | True | False |
| 7. All inner planets have rings. | True | False |
| 8. Neptune takes a long time to orbit the Sun because it is far away. | True | False |

Name: _____

Date: _____

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Read the text about the planets and answer the questions

1. What does it mean when we say planets orbit the Sun?
2. What are the names of the inner planets?
3. Why are the inner planets also called rocky planets?
4. What are the names of the outer planets?
5. What makes the outer planets different from the inner planets?
6. Which planets are called gas giants and ice giants?
7. What makes Earth special compared to the other planets?
8. What other objects (besides planets) are part of the Solar System?

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ANSWER KEY



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